# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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# Daily Report
## Near East & South Asia

*FBIS-NES-95-059* *28 March 1995*

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## Arab-Israeli Talks

### Israeli Labor Party Leader, 'Arafat Meet in Jericho

*TA2703165195 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] [Israeli] Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili met in Jericho today with Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian Authority [PA], and several PA members. They discussed problems pertaining to the implementation of the political agreement. At the end of the meeting 'Arafat left the confines of Jericho and returned to his offices in Gaza. Our correspondent in the territories Golan Yokhpaz reports:

[Begin recording] [Yokhpaz] 'Arafat and Zvili met once before about a year and a half ago at 'Arafat's headquarters-in-exile in Tunis. Today, however, Zvili met 'Arafat in the center of the Palestinian Autonomy in Jericho. The two men raised disputed issues in the political negotiations. At the end of the meeting Zvili said that 'Arafat has only just now realized that he must fight Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad.

[Zvili] Indeed, I was pleasantly surprised with his attitude, to the effect that he is prepared to establish joint teams to coordinate and cooperate—mainly in terms of information and whatever is necessary—in fighting radical groups among the Palestinians, and inform whoever must be informed about it.

[Yokhpaz] In the course of the meeting, which was also attended by PA members Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], and Jamil al-Tarifi, 'Arafat made serious complaints concerning the economic situation in the Gaza Strip. With every day that passes the Palestinian deficit grows by $3.5 million, 'Arafat said. Zvili proposed to his interlocutors to get on with their preparations for elections in the territories so they are able to overcome the organizations opposing the peace process.

[Zvili] I proposed that they transform Fatah from a revolutionary movement into a political one; that is to say, to start building an organizational grassroots infrastructure in order to win over Palestinian public opinion. I think they are beginning to get used to the idea of switching from a revolutionary movement to a political one which must win over public opinion.

[Yokhpaz] Shortly after the meeting ended, the PLO leader left the autonomous area in Jericho, and the helicopter borrowed from Egypt noisily made its way back to Gaza. [end recording]

[A related report by Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1600 GMT on 27 March adds: "A PLO official said 'Arafat presented Knesset Member Zvili with proposals on security arrangements in the territories after the Israeli army's redeployment. Chairman 'Arafat is said to have asked Zvili to pass on the ideas to Prime Minister Rabin. Chairman 'Arafat told Zvili he supports Hamas participating in the elections for the Palestinian Council. He says he believes it would bring about a moderation of the fundamentalist group."]

### 'Abd-al-Rahim Details Meeting

*JN2703190595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat met at his office in Jericho today with an Israeli delegation led by Labor Party Secretary General Nisim Zvili. More details on the meeting in the following interview colleague Jamal Mi'ari held with al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the presidency:

[Begin recording] [Mi'ari] Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the presidency, good evening.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Good evening.

[Mi'ari] President Yasir 'Arafat met today with an Israeli delegation led by Labor Party Secretary General Nisim Zvili. How was this meeting arranged?

['Abd-al-Rahim] Contacts with the Labor Party secretary in particular, and with the Labor Party in general, continue. We agreed to hold this meeting in Jericho.

[Mi'ari] What was the main objective of this meeting, and what was discussed during it?

['Abd-al-Rahim] We discussed several issues, including our commitment to the peace process. The Labor Party secretary also reiterated his party's commitment to the peace process. We discussed some points which conflict with the peace process. They [the Labor party delegation members] spoke about security and the operations which are carried out against Israeli targets, and we spoke about the closure and harassment policy to which the Israeli Government resorts after every terrorist operation. Our viewpoints were, to a large extent, in agreement. For its part, the Palestinian Authority will continue to safeguard its citizens' security and the newborn Palestinian dream. For their part, they stressed that they will convey what we told them to the Israeli leadership.

[Mi'ari] Has Nisim Zvili promised to implement anything tangible? What about the military siege on the detainees?

['Abd-al-Rahim] We have discussed all the issues which obstruct the continuation of the peace process. Among these issues are redeployment, elections, the VAT taxes the Israelis owe us, and the siege and harassment policy Israel resorts to after every terrorist operation, as I said. We have discussed all these issues. However, we agreed to keep these issues between us for now.

[Mi'ari] Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahim, it is known that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations will be resumed in Cairo tomorrow. Does the National Authority pin hopes on this new round of negotiations?

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['Abd-al-Rahim] A decision was made to continue these negotiations. However, talking about elections before redeployment [sentence incomplete as heard]. We should arrange our affairs regarding elections so when redeployment takes place, the elections issue will be ready. However, there will be no elections before redeployment.

[Mi'ari] Was a date set or coordinated for the president's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin?

['Abd-al-Rahim] No.

[Mi'ari] Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the presidency, thank you very much.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Thank you. [end recording]

### Quray' Previews New Round of Cairo Negotiations

*NC2803073495 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 28 Mar 95*

[Telephone interview with Ahmad Quray', minister of economy in the Palestinian Authority, in Gaza, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Quray'] Thank you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Palestinian-Israeli negotiations over elections in the West Bank and Gaza resume in Cairo today. Should we expect something new in this round of talks?

[Quray'] I cannot make an early judgment; it depends on the intentions of the Israelis. But I can say that negotiations over the elections have become protracted, and it seems to me that progress, even if limited, on some of the headings of these negotiations must be achieved in this round. For example, we hope that an agreement will be reached on the composition of the elected council, the number of its members, its powers, and so on. If this happens, then I believe it will constitute a breakthrough in the negotiations on this issue.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] But have you not assessed the intentions of the Israelis, especially at the meeting between the Israeli Foreign Ministry adviser and Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat in Jericho?

[Quray'] I hope there are good Israeli intentions. I hope this round of talks will make some progress to boost confidence in the peace process on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] But what are the main points of difference between you and the Israelis concerning the election issue?

[Quray'] We still have some differences over five or six basic and main subjects. If, in this round, we achieve something on the composition of the council, its powers, and the number of its members, then I believe that all other remaining issues can be resolved and agreed upon quickly. This is the main issue the brothers there [the Palestinian negotiators] are concentrating on in this round and in the upcoming rounds. I hope progress will be made. I do not wish to prejudge or give indications that may prove unrealistic.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Let us move to the international grants or aid you were promised. What is the latest? As economy minister, how is the Palestinian economy?

[Quray'] As for the Palestinian economy, we are undoubtedly facing big problems. The economy we inherited from Israel is mutilated, is [words indistinct] and designed to be dependent on the Israeli economy. Over 27 years the occupation authorities added nothing to the infrastructure on top of that which existed before 1967. On the contrary, they even committed destruction. So we inherited an economy that was in a very bad shape. Developing this economy depends on us, on our capabilities, and on our people. We have no doubts about this; I do not doubt the abilities of our people. But it is the problem of the infrastructure of the Palestinian economy that needs support to be solved. We hope the donor states will change the method they have used to offer their assistance, and that the aid will start to flow into the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

## Islamic Affairs

### Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 14 Mar

*NC2303091595*

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 14 March edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Islamic Efforts Urged To Liberate Jerusalem
2. Israel's War Threats, Nuclear Policy Denounced
3. Koran Tells Stories of Jews' Malice
4. Have Extremists Infiltrated al-Azhar University?
5. Islam Is Religion of Peace
6. Religious Leaders Explain Islam's Tolerance to Prince Charles
7. Report Critical of Bengladeshi Writer's Remarks on Islam

#### ISLAMIC EFFORTS URGED TO LIBERATE JERUSALEM

In an 800-word report on page 20, Tariq 'Abdallah cites the recommendations expected to be issued on 14 March by a symposium on Jerusalem organized by the Arab League in cooperation with the Organization of Islamic Conference. According to the report, the recommendations include imposing Arab and Islamic sanctions against the countries that transfer their embassies from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, and they call on Arab and other

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countries "not to hasten to establish relations with Israel before a just and comprehensive peace is established and the territories occupied in 1967 return to their owners."

In the report, al-Azhar Grand Imam Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq is cited as telling the symposium that "the return of Jerusalem to its status before the 1967 aggression is the only solution that ensures all rights to Jews, Christians, and Muslims alike."

—A 1,500-word report by Mustafa Yasin on the same page discusses Israel's attempts to Judaize Jerusalem and turn it into Israel's capital. The writer refutes the Jews' claim to Jerusalem and stresses that the Arabs were the first to inhabit the holy city. He notes Israel's plans to build settlements around the city and confiscate Arab lands there. He concludes: "The Arabs and Muslims have to join forces to restore holy Jerusalem and liberate it from the domination of Israeli colonization."

—In part of its 500-word editorial on page 3, the newspaper highlights the importance of Jerusalem and its al-Aqsa mosque for all Muslims. "For Muslims, the al-Aqsa Mosque represents a dear symbol and a religious value. Preserving this value is a duty, and relinquishing it is a treason and a major, unforgivable sin," the editorial says. It adds: "We are sure Egypt will play an important role in preserving our sacred Islamic places in the holy city."

—In a 350-word article on page 21, columnist 'Adil Dayf urges swift moves "to save Jerusalem and liberate it from the hands of the occupiers." He says it is high time for Muslims to "confront the Israeli designs and ambitions which seek to Judaize the holy city."

## ISRAEL'S WAR THREATS, NUCLEAR POLICY DENOUNCED

In a 500-word article on page 8, columnist Majdi Salim denounces Israel's war threats and its refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. He wonders how this can be reconciled with Israel's peace claims. "The Jews have a super ability to use war tools and threaten to use them whenever they get a chance within the current struggle for peace. They always put the gun on the negotiating table," he states. He maintains that Israel always plays the role of the victim to win sympathy, but suddenly turns into an aggressor occupying others' lands. Noting that Israel did this before the 1967 war, Salim warns: "It is not unlikely for Israel today to play the same old roles, knowing that the Arabs never learn the lesson."

## KORAN TELLS STORIES OF JEWS' MALICE

In a 1,000-word article on page 11, Dr. Muhammad al-Dali cites some Koranic stories and verses to prove that historically, the Jews have been "ungrateful" to God despite his many graces for them, and that they always broke their promises. He begins: "The noble Koran has explained the Jews' mean habits. They see justice with their naked eye and yet conceal and deny it. The Koran discloses their malicious and sinister conduct, which went as far as killing God's prophets and messengers."

## HAVE EXTREMISTS INFILTRATED AL-AZHAR UNIVERSITY?

A 2,000-word report by Jamal Salim on page 3 examines whether a al-Azhar University's decision to accept graduates from other Egyptian universities in its religious sciences faculties has helped extremists to infiltrate the university. The university president, vice president, and other officials stress that the decision, whose implementation began two years ago, was successful by all standards, and they deny accusations that extremists did infiltrate the university. The university president notes that some suspect extremists were accepted in the university after they obtained court rulings to this effect. He says the extremist thought of these people can be corrected through dialogues with their teachers. "Is this not better than having them release poisonous thought into the society" he asks.

On the other hand, Dr. Sayyid 'Abd-al-Tawwab, dean of the Faculty of Arab and Islamic Studies for Girls in Cairo, says "the experience is a failure and will not bear fruit because it began with a political decision and did not stem from al-Azhar university." He adds: "Some extremists have infiltrated the university after obtaining court rulings that they are entitled to enrollment despite security warnings." He says that some extremist girls appeared in his faculty, and adds: "We warned them not to form groups inside the faculty, and we are trying to convince them that their thought is wrong."

Some other religious academics call for separating the newcomers from the university's other students, who usually come from high schools belonging to the al-Azhar establishment, because of the age gap. One of them urges that the new students be checked for good conduct before they are accepted "because some extremists have indeed sneaked into the university."

## ISLAM IS RELIGION OF PEACE

A 800-word article by al-Azhar Grand Imam Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad al-Haqq on page 7 discusses peace in Islam in general terms, stressing that the Islamic faith essentially calls for peace and peaceful dealings. He cites Koranic verses and Prophet Muhammad sayings to maintain that peace constitutes the basis of the Muslim society's unity and strength. "Peace is the foundation of the human society," he says, adding that "war is waged only to maintain this peace foundation". He contends that "peace is a blessing and a gain, and war, in all its forms, is an ordeal and a burden." This is the language of Islam, he says, adding: "To complete and ensure the continuation and the establishment of Islam's call on peace, it was important for this peace to preserve Muslims' strength and ward off the harm of their enemies."

## RELIGIOUS LEADERS EXPLAIN ISLAM'S TOLERANCE TO PRINCE CHARLES

A 300-word report by Musa Hal and Mahmud 'Ushb on page 1 cites Britain's Prince Charles as condemning "the

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deliberate distortion of Islam's image in some Western countries." He was reportedly speaking during a meeting with al-Azhar Imam Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad al-Haqq in Cairo. The prince is cited as stressing the need for cooperation between al-Azhar and British academic establishments and institutes. In the meeting, and in another meeting between Prince Charles and Egypt's Mufti Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, the British crown prince reportedly listened to the two religious leaders explaining the "tolerance" of Islam and its innocence from charges of "killing and terrorism."

—A 500-word article by Chief Editor al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf on page 24 discusses Prince Charles repeated visits to Egypt and his meetings with religious leaders. He says the prince, who is the honorary president of the Oxford Center for Islamic Studies, has special interest in Islam. The writer refers to a lecture delivered by the prince in October 1993 in which he reportedly noted Islam's contribution to human civilization in general and the European civilization in particular, and said that the image of Islam in the West was distorted due to old bitterness and media exaggerations.

### REPORT CRITICAL OF BENGLADESHI WRITER'S REMARKS ON ISLAM

A 300-word report by Ashraf Abu-al-Hawl on page 21 cites, in a denouncing way, statements made by Bangladeshi writer Taslema Nesrin at the sidelines of the Copenhagen conference for social development. The reporter says "apostate" Nesrin, who fled her country last August, "continued her false attacks against Islam," claiming that it deprives women of freedom and justice.

## Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 17 Mar

*NC2303144695*

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 17 March edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

### CONTENTS:

1. Labor Party, Muslim Brotherhood Members Arrested
2. Opposition Groups Berate Mufti's Decree on Travel to Israel
3. Islamic Trend Wins Teachers Elections
4. Islamic Trend's Influence on Trade Unions Analyzed
5. Writer Criticizes Official Position on Nuclear Treaty
6. Labor Party Official Discusses Islamic Ties With Asia

### LABOR PARTY, MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD MEMBERS ARRESTED

Ahmad Mahjub files a 110-word report on page 1 on the arrest of Labor Party and Muslim Brotherhood members. He says the State Security detectives in the al-Minya Governorate launched a "large-scale" campaign to arrest Labor Party and Muslim Brotherhood members. He gives the names of five Labor Party members and six Muslim Brotherhood members arrested by the authorities.

### OPPOSITION GROUPS BERATE MUFTI'S DECREE ON TRAVEL TO ISRAEL

Jamal Imbabi complies a 700-word report on pages 1 and 6 on a meeting organized by opposition parties and groups to denounce Israel's participation in the Cairo industrial-agricultural exhibition which began "the day before yesterday, Wednesday."

The participants demanded a "serious stand to prevent the Zionist state" from taking part in the Cairo exhibition and to boycott it if Israel participates.

The report says: "The nationalist forces expressed their astonishment and shock at Mubarak's statements in Japan and his agreement to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty even if Israel does not sign it."

Imbabi adds that a Nasirite Party delegate criticized and opposed the mufti's decree endorsing travel to Israel and that he praised al-Azhar's and the pope's positions on the issue.

### ISLAMIC TREND WINS TEACHERS ELECTIONS

A 100-word report on pages 1 and 6 says the Islamic trend has "achieved an overwhelming victory" in the teachers elections in the al-Sharqiyah Governorate.

### ISLAMIC TREND'S INFLUENCE ON TRADE UNIONS ANALYZED

Dr. 'Ali 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Engineers Association in Asyut, writes on page 2 a 1,150-word article reviewing the history of trade unions in the country and the union's relations with various governments. He says that in the mid 80's the regime eased restrictions on the opposition and then the trade unions began to play an "unprecedented role and that their influence in the Egyptian streets began since the Islamic trend entered these unions."

He says analysts and experts of Egyptian politics regardless of their inclinations have "asserted" that the presence of the Islamic trend in the trade unions has produced many results. Tabling these results, he says the Islamists-dominated trade unions managed to achieve their goals, turn into tools of democracy, contribute to enhancing the plural system, and exert the greatest effort to pressure the regime into shifting to a real democratic reform.

The author notes that analysts have reached the conclusion that the Islamic trend members "managed to provide an alternative to the political system as a humane system." He adds that with its strong performance, the Islamic trend has been able to "attract growing support from the educated elite in Egypt, especially the youths."

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### WRITER CRITICIZES OFFICIAL POSITION ON NUCLEAR TREATY

In a 700-word column on page 3, Major General Tal'at Ahmad Musallam notes "contradictions' in the "official statements" on various issues. In particular, he rejects a statement that "We do not demand that Israel immediately join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty or that it should immediately remove its installations." He comments on the statement saying: "We do not see a convincing reason for this carelessness. Moreover, we do not trust Israeli promises and declarations." He asks: "Why don't we ask Israel to join the treaty and place its nuclear installations immediately under international supervision and why don't we demand that the Israeli nuclear arsenal be eliminated under the supervision of an international agency, not Israel, so that a security balance could be established. He also asks: Doesn't the carelessness toward Israel in this regard contradict the statement that the Israeli nuclear program threatens pan-Arab security?

### LABOR PARTY OFFICIAL DISCUSSES ISLAMIC TIES WITH ASIA

Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn writes a lengthy article, approximately 4,000 words, on page 5 titled "Relations With Japan in October 1973 and During the Gulf War...How Are They Now?". He reviews Japanese-U.S. relations, both countries' positions during the Gulf war, and discusses the nuclear weapons issue.

He begins the article by saying: "As everyone expected, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour merely sought to increase pressure on all Arab parties to make them submit to Israel's demands. Egypt topped the list of those who were pressured, particularly with regard to its stand on the Israeli nuclear weapons." He adds: "The results of this pressure appeared during President Mubarak's trip to Japan and in his statements there in which he announced Egypt's retreat from its firm position on the issue that have been reiterated several times over the past months."

He notes: "We were not surprised by the government's retreat on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty because we expected it although we definitely did not wish it to happen. Before this happened, there was another retreat and apology about the Alexandria tripartite summit between Mubarak, Fahd, and al-Asad. All this was regrettably expected. We saw corruption and impotence gripping the government officials and thus we expected them to retreat in the face of the enemy's counteroffensive. But we ask why our fellows showed firmness when they knew they would not stand pressure and intimidation."

After reviewing former U.S. President Nixon's book on Japan's contributions to the U.S.-arranged security measures in the Gulf, Husayn says: "It is obvious from what we mentioned that lukewarm or unfriendly relations are subject to radical change if we change our stands and if our independence is enhanced.

He adds: "In fact, the Islamic renaissance advocates consider Japan to be the future continent. Our eyes are focused especially on China and Japan and on India's potentials. All these interact with the Islamic region in east Asia, Malaysia and Indonesia, and with central Asia, led by Iran. He continues: "These growing enormous, historical developments at the center of which Islam lies prompt us to change all world balances, God willing."

He notes: "But this aspiration for a likely alliance between Japan and China and the Islamic nation does not mean that we should wait until our allies gain power through which they would intervene to save us from the U.S. humiliation. Muslims' development will only be realized by their blood, brains, and hands."

The author points out that the alliance between the Islamic nation and Asian nations is the harvest of an arduous process which represents the greatest landmarks of the 21st century.

## Palestinian Affairs

### 'Arafat Leaves Jericho Following 4-Day Visit

*JN2703153895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Yasir 'Arafat left Jericho today. [passage omitted]

During his four-day stay in Jericho, his excellency met with U.S. Vice President Al Gore, chaired the National Authority Council of Ministers' weekly meeting, inaugurated six development and services projects in the city, and received popular and student delegations from various West bank cities and villages.

### 'Arafat Adviser: Hand Extended to Opposition Factions

*JN2803101195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0800 GMT 28 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on Israeli statements publicly calling for the removal of settlements in Gaza, Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafa', said: They are frank admission that the problem of settlements constitutes a real obstacle to any progress in the peace process. This, however, should not obstruct the relocation of the Israeli forces in the Palestinian West Bank or the holding of election to allow the Palestinian Authority to reach the rest of the West Bank.

In another development, Nabil Abu-Rudaynah said: President 'Arafat's meeting with U.S. Vice President Al Gore, the continuous U.S. support for the peace process, and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's expected visit to Gaza next month will advance the peace process. He added: The cosponsors of the peace

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process are aware that the peace process is facing an impasse and that efforts should be exerted to save the peace process.

Reacting to the statements that Syria has asked the opposition Palestinian factions to leave Damascus, Abu-Rudaynah said: The Palestinian hand is extended to everyone. They should participate in building the homeland. President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] always says to them: Come. Let us build together our Palestinian state hand-in-hand and shoulder our responsibilities together to establish our independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Abu-Rudaynah said that the torrential flow of people to Jericho while President Abu-'Ammar was there to congratulate him and to express their allegiance demonstrates the large-scale popular support for the PLO political line.

### 'Battle To Topple 'Arafat' Reported at Fatah Meetings

*MM2403164995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Mar 95 p 3*

[Unattributed report: "Fatah Meetings Revealed Fierce Battle To Topple 'Arafat"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Prominent Fatah sources have revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Fatah Central Committee meetings recently held in Tunis under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat with the participation of all members failed to contain the the internal differences and conflicts that have afflicted the movement since the signing of the Oslo agreement in September 1993 in Washington.

The sources, who wished to remain anonymous, expected an intensification of these differences in the coming days, especially between Yasir 'Arafat and Fatah Central Committee Secretary Faruq Qaddumi who led a strong and open battle during the Fatah Central Committee meetings in Tunis against the Palestinian president and his performance in the [Palestinian] Authority [PA] and in the management of the negotiation process with Israel.

According to the same sources, the meetings of the Central Committee of Fatah, the biggest PLO faction, clearly confirmed that there were two opposing trends regarding the peace process and that the main disagreement is over the way of tackling the dilemma reached in the negotiations which, both sides agree, is serious. One trend, which represents the majority and is headed by 'Arafat, maintains that withdrawal from the negotiations is not possible because it would serve Israel, harm Palestinian national interests, and place the ball in the Palestinian court.

In addition to 'Arafat, that trend is supported by Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin), Muhammad Ghunaym (Abu-Mahir), Nabil Sha'th, Jamal al-Surani, Yasir 'Amr, Faysal al-Husayni, Zakariya al-Agha, Intisar al-Wazir (Umm-Jihad), Hakam Bal'awi, 'Abdallah al-Ifranji, and Major General Nasr Yusuf.

The second trend, which represents the minority in the Central Committee, is led by Qaddumi and also includes Hani al-Hasan, Sakhr Habash, Muhammad Jihad, and 'Abbas Zaki. It believes that suspension of the negotiations would act as an electric shock for the Arabs and the international community to act and put pressure on Israel to implement the agreements it signed and promise to take the negotiations seriously.

Advocates of that trend believe that such an electric shock, whatever its results, would be better than proceeding on a dead-end road and wasting time which would only make it possible for Israel to secure more achievements. But, they add, a shock could unify Palestinian ranks and restore national unity. That trend, some observers note, suffers from a lack of full harmony among its members. Hani al-Hasan, for example, agrees with his colleagues in that trend, on everything relating to opposition to the current course of the negotiations. He believes that the main problem at present is not the policy of the PA but the Oslo agreement itself. He totally rejects that agreement. Hani al-Hasan has been quoted as saying during the Central Committee meetings that "the problem is not the person playing the music or his performance and, therefore, cannot be solved by replacing him. The problem is the musical notes, namely the agreement, which is erroneously based on the theory that Israeli security takes precedence over Palestinian security."

Faruq Qaddumi, on the other hand, has a different view, maintaining that the problem is not the Oslo agreement but President 'Arafat's performance, and, therefore, he believes that changing 'Arafat or at least his method would solve the problem with Israel.

Despite his current alliance with Hani al-Hasan, Qaddumi does not attach much importance to the continuation of that alliance. People close to him say that al-Hasan "cannot possibly be a permanent ally because he always likes to play solo."

They add that Qaddumi attaches much importance to his traditional allies Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) and Muhammad Ghunaym (Abu-Mahir) but the big surprise during the meeting came whey they joined 'Arafat's trend after a ploy by 'Arafat which they only discovered when it was too late.

Before arriving in Tunis, 'Arafat had the clear idea in his mind that Qaddumi was the "pivotal" figure in the conflict between him and his opponents, and his internal and external activities were the source of the direct threat to his own authority. That is why Abu-'Ammar's ['Arafat's] aim was to isolate Qaddumi from his allies. He realized that some cosmetic and temporary concessions would earn him the affection and support of

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Abu-Mazin and Abu-Mahir. So as soon as he set foot in Tunisia he began contacting the others, offering the former a reassignment as chairman of the negotiation committee with Israel and the other the chairmanship of the Fatah organizational committee at home. The two liked 'Arafat's offers, without realizing what 'Arafat's intentions were and what he was hiding.

So, by the time the Central Committee met, 'Arafat had guaranteed the support of Abu-Mazin and Abu-Mahir for his political position, which tipped the balance in favor of continuation of the negotiations without any significant conditions. That is what 'Arafat wanted and hoped for. He did not want any restrictions on his handling of the negotiation process or anything to do with the autonomy affairs, be it financial or power-related.

According to that same story, 'Arafat, having got everything he wanted from the Central Committee and having come out of that meeting raising the banner of victory in both hands, went to the [PLO] Executive Committee meeting confident that the outcome there would not be any different from the Central Committee, bearing in mind Fatah's considerable influence in the Executive Committee.

'Arafat indeed managed to get the Executive Committee's support for the continuation of the negotiations in the way the head of the National Authority wanted. Only then did 'Arafat produce from up his sleeve the sensational surprise in this episode, which Abu-Mazin in particular had not taken into consideration. The surprise was that 'Arafat decided that he himself would be a member of the negotiations committee which Abu-Mazin is supposed to chair. Abu- Mazin was angry and, protesting, said that his (Abu-Mazin's) chairmanship was just a meaningless formality because how could he be chairman over the head of the PA? But 'Arafat insisted on his position, to everyone's surprise. That convinced others, especially Abu-Mahir, that the role Abu-Mahir was given would not be any better than Abu-Mazin's so long as 'Arafat is going to be in and at the head of all the committees. But once the required political decision was made, the protests and questions were no longer of any value.

## Fatah's Zaki Applauds Hamas Operation in Hebron

*TA2703122795 Gaza AL-WATAN in Arabic 23 Mar 95 pp 1, 15*

[FBIS Translated Text] Bethlehem, QUDS PRESS—In the first official praise by Fatah, the largest PLO faction, for the military operation carried out in Hebron by the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions, the military wing of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], 'Abbas Zaki, member of the Fatah Central Committee and secretary of the intifadah higher committee, called for continuing the acts of resistance in the occupied territories. He described the armed operation in these terms: "The first rain is a drop."

In a written appeal addressed to the Palestinian people and distributed by fax in the occupied territories, a copy of which was obtained by QUDS PRESS, Zaki said that "Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and his government are constantly trying to turn the issue of gradual withdrawal into a fait accompli and something acceptable to the Palestinian Authority, people, and leadership."

Zaki, who had attended last week's Fatah Central Committee meeting in Tunis, added that "there will be neither security, calm, nor stability with the occupation, domination, blackmail, confiscation of land, establishment of settlements, and continued imprisonment of male and female strugglers." He stressed that "Jerusalem must take priority over everything else—over Gaza, Jericho, and Janin—because the Palestinian people's honor, dignity, and pride will remain incomplete without Jerusalem. This applies to the Arab and Islamic nations as well." He said that "the Oslo accord has made the Palestinian people live a worse life than before the signing of the accord." He added: "We must not defend Israel because it continues to practice its nuclear arrogance and refuses to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty."

## Fatah Leaders Living Abroad Reportedly To Return

*JN2403164395 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Mar 95 p 20*

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—QUDS PRESS—Palestinian sources have said leaders in the Palestine National Liberation Movement, Fatah, who are living abroad have decided to return to the Palestinian self-rule areas in an attempt to organize the movement's ranks that support the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

In statements to QUDS PRESS, Fatah Central Committee member Major General Muhammad Jihad said that in its open meetings in Tunis a few days ago, the movement's Central Committee decided to form a committee for mobilization and organization inside Palestine.

Jihad, who is Fatah's military official, said this committee will be led by Muhammad Ghunaym, also known as Abu-Mahir, official in charge of mobilization and organization in Fatah. The members of this committee are 'Abbas Zaki, Hani al-Hasan, Hakam Bal'awi, 'Abdallah al-Ifranji, Zakariya al-Agha, and Faysal al-Husayni, all of whom are also members of the Central Committee of Fatah, the PLO's largest faction.

Jihad said the decision stipulates that all those mentioned return to live at home. He noted that Ghunaym will head the mobilization and organization committee at home and abroad. Zaki and al-Hasan had expressed some strong reservations, which reached the point of opposing the Palestinian self-rule agreement.

In its decisions, Fatah Central Committee decided to include al- Husayni and al-Agha within the legal quorum of the committee's meeting. Although they are members of the committee, al-Husayni and al-Agha were not

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included in the committee's quorum because of exceptional circumstances in the Palestinian areas.

General Muhammad Jihad said the Fatah Central Committee meetings reemphasized the committee's role as a general, day-to-day command, at home and abroad. He noted that the committee decided to hold periodic meetings; that is, once every month, in Tunis. In addition, the committee stressed that the PLO Executive Committee should hold regular meetings in Tunis, since it is the headquarters of the [PLO] Executive Committee and [Fatah] Central Committee.

Jihad revealed that there is an inclination toward completing the membership of the Fatah Central Committee by selecting new members to replace previous members who have been martyred and others who have died during the past years. It is noteworthy that Fatah's inside list stipulates that the minimum number of its Central Committee's members should be 18 and the maximum number should be 21.

Muhammad Jihad said the names of the new members will be announced in the liberated areas under the self-rule authority and will remain a secret in other areas because they are under occupation. He noted that these names will be added after the committee that is formed puts an organizational framework into place and holds elections for the movement in order to organize the movement and produce a new leaders that assume militant duties.

On another level, Jihad said the Fatah Central Committee decided to form a committee for dialogue with opposition factions. This committee comprises Salim al-Za'nun, also known as Abu-al-Adib, and Hani al-Hasan. Jihad noted that dialogue will be held without any preconditions for any party, as he put it. The PLO Executive Committee has decided to form a similar committee.

### Acting PNC Speaker on PLO Council Meeting

*JN2403135595 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Mar 95 pp 28, 27*

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Salim al-Za'nun, acting speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC] and the PLO Central Council, has said that the purpose of yesterday's mini meeting in Amman of the Central Council was not to set a meeting date for the PNC.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y following the PLO Central Council's meeting held the day before yesterday, al-Za'nun said: It is not in our interest to convene the PNC at this stage because Israel will ask us to amend the Palestine National Charter.

Al-Za'nun said that the Central Council meeting was attended by 20 of the council's 60 members. He said the members who attended were briefed on the results of the PLO Executive Committee meeting recently held in Tunisia.

Al-Za'nun admitted that his deputy Taysir Qub'ah and prominent members of the Central Council, the majority of whom belong to Palestinian opposition, failed to attend.

He said the Central Council's mini-meeting was held in response to a call by Palestinians, both proponents and opponents of the Oslo agreement, to activate the PLO's establishments and committees inside and outside [the Palestinian areas].

He pointed out that he had briefed the Central Council's members on the latest negotiation developments. He emphasized that the talks have reached an impasse because of Israel's procrastination in implementing the Oslo agreement and the division of the second part of the agreement into various stages that, starting with Janin, could go on for 20 years.

### PFLP Absence at Meeting Explained

*JN2603131595 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Mar p 28*

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source at the Palestine National Council [PNC] Speaker's Office has said that an administrative mistake was responsible for the failure to invite the representatives of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] to the meeting of the PLO Central Council, which was held in Amman last Thursday [23 March] and grouped the council's Amman-based members.

The source said that Salim al-Za'nun [the PNC's acting speaker] inquired about the absence of the PFLP's representatives. The source said that an investigation has revealed that two employees at the office failed to extend the invitation to the PFLP. It added that proper measures were taken against the two employees.

The source said that an apology was made to the PFLP for this administrative error.

### Police Commander on Security, Arrest of Instigators

*NC2403191595 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Nasr Yusuf, general director of public security and commander of the Palestinian police, today responded to Israel's demand that the Palestinian self-rule authority be tougher on the extremists. In an interview with MBC today, he explained the police's duties and defended the arrest of certain people:

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[Begin recording] [Yusuf] The Palestinian police are concerned with security, whether Israel talks about it or not. Security is a duty of the Palestinian police just like any other police force in any country in the world. There is no doubt that a lot has been achieved in the field of security. There is no doubt that eventually we will be able take full control of security. Israel has an important role in maintaining security—that is, by quickly implementing the second phase of the agreement.

['Awn] a number of your people accuse the Palestinian police of doing the dirty work for the Israeli occupation forces. Is this true?

[Yusuf] This is untrue. We are enforcing security to ensure the safety of Palestinian society first, in both aspects: Personal security, and the other part of Palestinian security, which is our fulfillment of our commitments in the area.

['Awn] How then do you explain the detention of certain people for their political stances or merely for opposing the self-ruel authority?

[Yusuf] We do not detain people for opposing the self-rule authority. All opposition political parties have freedom. We detain anyone who disturbs the peace or instigates violence.

['Awn] But you arrested two shaykhs in a mosque.

[Yusuf] They were inciting violence.

['Awn] Certain people maintain that the actual commander of the Palestinian police is Abu-'Ammar, [Yasir 'Arafat] himself. Do you not think that the politicians' interference in the affairs of a security agency hinders your work?

[Yusuf] Any interference from incompetent quarters certainly has a negative effect. [end recording]

## Ministry Bans Entry of Israeli Produce Into Gaza

*JN2403195595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Mahmud Abu-Samrah, director general of the Ministry of Agriculture, has said the ministry has decided to ban Israeli products from entering the Gaza Strip. He explained that this is because the Israeli authorities are banning Palestinian trucks carrying bananas and vegetables from entering Israel.

Abu-Samrah noted that the Israeli authorities allowed only four trucks to enter Israel through Erez crossing—an action which is in variance with the bases of the peace process.

## Orient House Map Shows Israeli Cities as Jewish Settlements

*TA2803072595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 28 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] A colored map of the State of Palestine being distributed in East Jerusalem in the past year has all the cities and towns inside the Green Line marked as Jewish settlements and calls Jerusalem the capital of Palestine. No Jewish settlement in Judaea and Samaria appears on it. The map is being distributed by the Arab Studies Society, headed by Faysal al-Husayni. The map's existence was uncovered by the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Gil Litman reports:

[Begin recording] [Litman] The settlement leadership is continuing its information campaign against the Palestinian institutions. Following the council's horror show, put on about three weeks ago, on the return of displaced Palestinians, the settlement leaders are making the public aware of the Palestinian map published by al-Husayni.

The colored map is sold in several East Jerusalem shops. Here is a selection of pearls the settlers found on the map: Only the Old City of Jerusalem is marked and is presented as the capital of Palestine. Tel Aviv, Bat Yam, Petah Tiqva, Giv'atayim, and, in fact, all the Israeli towns inside the Green Line are marked as Jewish settlements. Others, such as 'Atlit, are Arab villages abandoned in 1948 and 1967. 'Afula is presented in the legend as an Arab village abandoned at the turn of the century. The map is updated to 1988 but does not include a single Jewish settlement beyond the Green Line, except for 'Atarot and Neve Ya'aqov. The legend includes sites holy to Christianity and Islam, but no Jewish holy sites. The map was issued by Orient House's Arab Studies Society, headed by Faysal al-Husayni. He explained that as long as Israelis call the West Bank by its biblical name, this is the Palestinian map.

[Al-Husayni] We are referring to the 1948 map and what occurred later. When there is a comprehensive agreement, we will change those things and say this is a village and this is a town. As long as the Israelis consider the West Bank to be Judaea and Samaria, we have our names for the other side.

[Litman] The map is sold at tourist shops in East Jerusalem. We checked at several stores in the Old City and on East Jerusalem's main street, and the shopkeepers told us the map is sold to anybody who asks for it for 20 shekels. [end recording]

## 'Islamic Salvation Front' Issues Pamphlet in Gaza

*NC2403164795 Paris AFP in English 1458 GMT 24 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, March 24 (AFP)—A pamphlet signed by the "Islamic Salvation Front," the same name as a fundamentalist Algerian group, was issued for the first time Friday [24 March] in the autonomous Gaza Strip.

There were no immediate indications as to the authors of the leaflets, which were distributed mainly in the al-Nusayrat refugee camp.

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The hardline Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) denied any link with the group which has never been heard of before.

The leaflet called for armed uprising against Israel. "Every settler and every Jew in Palestine is a target," it said.

The group said it was coordinating with 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, the armed wing of Hamas, and described itself as the "fighting front of the Islamic mujahidin in Palestine."

The leaflet condemned as "unacceptable surrender" the Israeli-PLO autonomy accords which launched Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho last May.

It said the group would fight against "the perverse influence of the West to be found in the cinema, video cassettes and television," as well as alcohol, gambling and prostitution.

The now outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in Algeria was poised to win general elections which the government cancelled in January 1992. Since then Algeria has been wracked by civil war between fundamentalist guerrillas and government forces.

### Hamas Official Rebuts Claims on Contacts With Likud

*NC2703184395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[From the "News and Reports" Feature]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has refuted Zionist Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's recent remarks in which he claimed that there has been cooperation between the Likud party on the one hand and Hamas and the Islamic Jihad on the other. It should be recalled that Hamas and the Islamic Jihad had carried out jihad operations over the past year that left dozens of Zionist military troops dead and hundreds of others injured.

Ghawshah added: We absolutely have no ties with the Zionist rightist party, the so-called Likud. We will continue our resistance operations relentlessly against the Zionist usurpers. Our resistance will continue whether the Zionist government belongs to the right or to the left.

### Paper: U.S. Policy in Region Shows 'Recklessness'

*MM2703105695 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 24 Mar 95 p 11*

[Editorial: "Another Strike for Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Text] During his recent tour of a number of Gulf capitals, U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry presented to his hosts photographs of Iraqi deployments and documents confirming Iraq's possession of chemical weapons. And he requested that Gulf sea and air ports be placed at the U.S. forces' disposal in anticipation of any emergency.

The U.S. defense secretary did not tell us anything about the nature of these deployments, their locations, whereabouts, or aim. As is known, Iraq deployed its forces twice only in the past 10 years: once on the Kuwaiti front, and once on the Iranian border.

With regard to Kuwait, all information indicates that its border is calm, and the international observation forces guarding it have not reported any Iraqi movements or violations. On the contrary, the violation this time has been committed by two Americans said to have lost their way and entered Iraqi territory by mistake.

We do not know how two Americans can cross the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border with their vehicle and reach Umm al-Qasr by mistake, especially as there is a trench along this border. It is 4 meters wide and not even a goat can cross it without passing through UN checkpoints, which are in control of all the unentrenched crossings. Let alone two Americans working as experts for a defense company contracted by the Kuwaiti Government and armed with information and maps.

As for Iran, we have not heard of any Iraqi interest in deploying forces on its border, since this border has become the only outlet for Iraq to smuggle some of its oil. Moreover, Iran, like Iraq, is threatened with a huge U.S. strike because of what Perry himself announced, namely that it has moved forces, missiles, and chemical weapons to Abu Musa island, hence posing a threat to international shipping in the Strait of Hormuz. And we do not believe that the United States is going to protest against any Iraqi deployments against Iran.

The certain thing is that the current U.S. Administration—whose foreign policy has failed in Somalia, Bosnia, and Chechnya; and the peace process it is sponsoring in the Middle East is facing numerous obstacles—is looking for an easy victory to bolster its popularity and secure an achievement to boast about in the upcoming presidential election campaign. This administration has failed to fulfill its promises as regards rectifying the deteriorating economic conditions, and its collapse is now certain; thus something must be done to salvage what can be salvaged. And nothing is easier than a new strike against Iraq, a besieged, destroyed, weak, and dismembered country which embodies the sole U.S. victory that eliminated the Vietnam complex and restored part of the squandered dignity of the U.S. military force.

Iraq possesses no chemical weapons as Perry said. And if it possesses them, it will not use them, otherwise it would have done so at the peak of its war against U.S. forces in January 1990. Besides, it is not the only state in the region which possesses these weapons. So why repeat

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those boring and outmoded pretexts and impudently try to promote them again to fabricate a new war or to push the Gulf states to conclude arms deals that are bigger than their capabilities?

It is blatant U.S. blackmail of the region, ugly exploitation of its regimes, and overt plunder of its wealth, or, rather, what is left of it. This U.S. policy reflects a recklessness the success of whose results will not always be guaranteed. If the U.S. Administration succeeded in mobilizing the world against Iraq because of its forces' invasion of Kuwait, the situation could be different next time. What would happen if Iraq as a whole explodes into a suicide war against its Arab and foreign enemies? And what would happen if the dual containment policy leads to a miraculous alliance between Iraq and Iran against the United States and its allies?

Other numerous questions can be asked. But the painful thing is that U.S. administrations do not want to listen. They like humiliating the Arabs and Muslims. And they have achieved great successes in this connection because of the existence of regimes not objecting to this, so why should they not continue doing the same? But this continuation is the ideal recipe for mobilizing what is difficult to mobilize to tackle this defect in the region.

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## Algeria

### Dembri: Break With Fundamentalist Countries Possible

*LD2703194695 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] In the diplomatic sphere, the Algerian foreign affairs minister [Mohamed Salah Dembri] has declared that his country is contemplating breaking—or freezing—its diplomatic relations with countries that back fundamentalism. However, he did not name the countries in question.

### Zeroual Meets Renewal Party Leader Boukrouh

*LD2703123295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] President Liamine Zeroual received Nourreddine Boukrouh, leader of the Algerian Renewal Party [PRA], at the presidential palace this morning. The meeting was within the framework of the resumption of bilateral consultations between the presidency and the political parties and national associations aimed at deepening the debate over the presidential elections which will be held at the end of this year and the provision of suitable conditions for them.

The meeting was attended by Mohamed Betchine, minister-adviser to the head of state; Youcef el-Khatib, adviser to the head of state; Ahmed Ouyahia, director of the Office of the President; and Mihoub Mihoubi, spokesman for the Office of the President.

Party Secretary-General Djilani Sofiane and Ali Setti, member of the party's National Bureau, were also present.

### Boukrouh Comments on Talks

*LD2703213195 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Following a meeting with head of state Zeroual, Mr. Nourreddine Boukrouh [leader of the Algerian Renewal Party] gave the following statement:

[Begin Boukrouh recording] The meeting took the form of an exact and frank working session. Of course, the discussions revolved around the existing crisis in our country and the means and ways to get out of it at the earliest moment.

With regard to the Renewal Party's suggestions, they are known. A long time ago, we suggested a return to the electoral process to the political circles in Algeria. In general, we start with the presidential elections and end with the rest of the elections.

Thus, we have discussed this effort today, because it is now known that presidential elections will be held in Algeria before the end of the year. The dialogue is open for discussion and for exchanging views on the best way to conduct these elections. [end recording]

Thus, as we have just seen, this meeting falls within the framework of the series of meetings that the presidency has scheduled with the political parties. [passage omitted]

### More Comments by Boukrouh

*LD2703232495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] Bilateral meetings between the authorities and the political parties started today at the presidency in preparation for the presidential elections due before the end of this year. [passage omitted]

Mr. Nourreddine Boukrouh, leader of the Algerian Renewal Party, talked to Hocine Bourada about the bilateral meetings that started today between the presidency and the Algerian Renewal Party, and the initial results of this meeting.

[Begin Boukrouh recording] There are tangible results. There are new things, whereby we said that the overall framework, i.e. that the dialogue is continuing, and will also continue after these initial meetings with the parties. The dialogue, contacts, and consultations will remain in existence.

The presidency studied carefully the parties' suggestions, including those of our party, and I remind you that at the top of the suggestions made by the Algerian Renewal Party was the creation of a joint committee to monitor the presidential elections. I can tell you that among the tangible results of these meetings is the readiness of the head of state to create such an institution so that the parties and figures who believe in presidential elections could be represented in this committee and have a view of the organization and supervision of the elections. You could consider this as a tangible result of our suggestions.

We have neither demanded the inclusion of parties in the present transitional government, nor the formation of government of a different nature. We have said that there is a technical side and a political side in these elections. There is a committee that was set up by the government, a governmental committee, which started its work at the beginning of the year. This is one thing. But, we, as the Algerian Renewal Party, demanded the creation of another committee of a political nature, because the first committee had technical tasks. We are concerned with the technical sides, but we are also concerned with the political sides. Thus, there is acceptance. The state is ready to accept the idea of creating a framework that brings the parties and the authorities together for monitoring the presidential elections. [end recording]

[Announcer] The leader of the Algerian Renewal Party, Nourreddine Boukrouh, considers that presidential elections are the solution for being open to all the figures and political forces.

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[Begin Boukrouh recording] The presidential elections could provide the opportunity to a person who for example belonged to an existing or dissolved party, or to any party. We are aware of the existing controversy on rehabilitating FIS [Islamic Salvation Front], as demanded by the activists of this movement. We said that if legislative elections, for example, were organized today, the problem would have been put forward under the issue of the parties, but, the presidential elections have a distinctive quality. Presidential elections could make things easier, and create new opportunities for reintegrating all the political parties in the legitimate political life. [end recording]

## Reportage on Reaction to London Conference

### Ait Ahmed: London Not Rome Follow-up

*MM2003091895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Mar 95 pp 1, 4*

[Report by Qusayy Salih al-Darwish: "Ait Ahmed Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: The London Meeting Is Informational, Not a Resumption of the Rome Conference"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris—Hocine Ait Ahmed, leader of the Algerian Socialist Forces Front [FFS], has denied that a third meeting of the Algerian opposition parties will be held in London next week. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, he said that "the rumors about a third Sant'Egidio meeting in London are completely unfounded."

He added that "what will take place in London will merely be an informational meeting to be convened by Ribhi Abdelnour, head of the Algerian Human Rights League, at the invitation of an association for Maghreb studies recently formed in London. Some Algerian political figures were invited to the meeting and the opening of the association's headquarters. These figures accepted the invitation out of their conviction that some light should be thrown on the dilemma reached in the Algerian crisis and on the need for the fulfillment of all requirements for the initiation of a real dialogue between the opposition parties and the ruling regime."

Ait Ahmed warned against presentation of that ordinary informational activity as being a third meeting of the Algerian opposition abroad, noting that this was not the first time the Algerian regime's circles and organs had spread such rumors, such as when the Algerian press claimed that a third Sant'Egidio meeting was to be held in Morocco.

Ait Ahmed added: "There is no reason why the Algerian opposition parties should not hold consultations between them. They are doing that all the time in Algeria, holding consultations on all new developments, but the media, especially the Algerian media, pay no attention to the activities of the opposition at home. As regards the Sant'Egidio meeting, it fulfilled its objectives when it produced the agreement document issued on 11 January 1995, which was acknowledged by everyone at home and abroad as a serious and important step toward a negotiated peaceful solution to the problem. The aim of the rumors about new meetings is to undermine and cast doubt on that achievement."

Ait Ahmed stressed that he was personally invited to London but he declined because his time agenda did not allow it because it was full of scheduled activities meant to give the Rome agreement dynamism.

It should be recalled that Abdelhamid Mehri, Ahmed Ben Bella, Shaykh Jaballah, Louisa Hanoun, and Anouar Haddam received invitations from the "Maghreb Studies Center" which was recently founded and which is supervised by former Prime Minister Abdelhamid Brahimi who lives in London.

It is a known fact that Abdelhamid Brahimi was one of the most prominent figures during the reign of Chadli Bendjedid and is considered by many to be the person primarily responsible for the Algerian economic chaos and crisis which was the main cause of the current political crisis in Algeria. He dropped a media bombshell three years ago when he said that as much as 26 billion dollars were embezzled from the state since independence. He then left Algeria for Europe where he settled in Britain at a time when he started to get closer to the [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS] and to adopt its views.

In another development, responsible FIS sources have denied that the appointment of the amir of the Islamic Salvation Army was meant as a substitute for the FIS leadership. The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the statement was misinterpreted, especially the part which said that "in the light of the jihad field developments, the National Shura Council of the Islamic Salvation Army met after large-scale consultations with the mujahidin, and the brothers unanimously agreed that a national amir should be appointed on behalf of the shaykhs [leaders]." They said that what it meant was that the Shura Council members made the appointment on behalf of the Shaykhs not as a substitute for them as some people thought.

### Brahimi Confirms FIS To Attend

*MM2303111295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Mar 95 pp 1, 4*

[Report by Sami Dhubyan: "Abdelhamid Brahimi Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Algerian London Meeting Will Be Officially Attended by Salvation Front"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London—Prominent Algerian politician Abdelhamid Brahimi has stated that the conference scheduled to be held in London tomorrow will put the emphasis on dialogue and undertake to prepare for it but in the context of the "Rome-2" conference and the "Sant 'Egidio conference." He confirmed that the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] will attend the conference and will be represented by Abdelkerim Ould Odeh as envoy of Shaykh Rabeh Kebir, chairman

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of the FIS Executive Committee abroad, who lives in Germany. Brahimi is a former prime minister and held various ministerial posts under various governments in Algeria since independence, not to mention the part he played in the revolution. He is now head and general manager of the Arab Maghreb Studies Center in London. He was the one who called for this conference which will begin at 1300 tomorrow at the of Institute International Studies (Chatham House), which is supervised by the British Foreign Office despite its independent status.

Brahimi told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that the London conference would complement the two sessions of the Rome conference and would be directly based on the national covenant reached by the Algerian party leaders who attended it and who saw it as the main framework for a solution to the Algerian problem. He confirmed that all the Algerian parties would attend tomorrow's conference, which will reject the continuation of armed violence and fall of daily victims in a raging war at the expense of Algeria and its national unity, security, and stability. [passage omitted]

Brahimi frankly accused a number of ruling officers of "promoting Francophone ideologies which Algeria is supposed to have rid itself of a long time ago. In doing so they are taking independent Algeria, which paid a high price for its freedom and independence, back to the era of subservience if not worse." [passage omitted]

In his statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Brahimi said that the advocates of armed struggle should realize that that kind of struggle can neither change the regime nor achieve the reforms the Algerian people have been hoping for after long years of government during which they could not fulfill many of their rights, including their right to a dignified and comfortable life. That is why Algeria needs the language of reason and logic instead of the language of force, death, and destruction. That can only be achieved through national dialogue which should lead to comprehensive national reconciliation and a return to democracy. [passage omitted]

### FIS' Haddam: London Not Like Rome Forum

*MM2403105895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Mar 95 p 5*

[Report by Muhammad Sadiq: "Haddam Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Prior Engagements Prevented Me from Attending London Meeting"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Washington—Anouar Haddam, head of the Parliamentary Mission of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] abroad, has stated that he is unable to attend and participate in the gathering to be held in London today on the occasion of the official opening of the Maghreb Center for Islamic Studies in the British capital, which is headed by Abdelhamid Brahimi, "because of prior engagements and lack of time."

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from his headquarters in the United States, Haddam said: "That is what prevents my participation, but a number of brothers will attend the opening of the center on behalf of the FIS."

Haddam added: "I would like to explain something here about some descriptions. What is taking place in London today is not a conference or meeting similar to what happened in Rome. It is the official opening of the Maghreb Center for Islamic Studies in London, which is headed by brother Abdelhamid Brahimi. It is not a meeting. It is an official opening of the center to which we have been invited. We should not give anything more than its worth." He also said: "The lecture which brother Ali Yahya Abdelnour will deliver on the occasion (which is an informational gathering) will be in the context of the Rome document, the aim being to acquaint world public opinion with what is going on in Algeria in the context of the information campaign of the signatories of the Rome document, as we agreed to open information channels to familiarize the international community with what is happening in Algeria. Brother Abdelnour is chairman of the Algerian Committee for the Defense of Human Rights and spokesman for the signatories of the Rome document. The occasion is not a continuation of the Rome meeting or anything like that." On another note, Haddam denied that the statement he issued last week in the name of the FIS Parliamentary Mission abroad condemning the killing of innocent people, women, and children was the result of pressure by or at the request of any party.

He told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "The statement expressed the principled position of the FIS based on the teachings of our true Islamic religion. We are also sure that that is the principle upheld by the faithful mujahidin and their national leadership. Our strength lies in the fact that the political decisions are made by our leadership, which means that our political decisions are fully independent and free from any pressure from any source. The statement we issued last week was a confirmation of these principles in the interest of which we started our work."

In his statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Haddam said: The question now is until when will the international community remain a spectator regarding what is going in Algeria? We are convinced that nobody is unaware of the crimes being committed against the Algerian people and the human rights violations. The truth is that some quarters fully reject real Algerian independence." [passage omitted]

### School Shoot-Out Leaves 3 Dead, Several Injured

*LD2203200795 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 22 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] There has been a shoot-out in a school: three Islamists who had taken refuge in a school in the eastern suburbs of Algiers were killed, and six children injured, two of them seriously. The figures were given this evening by the security services. [passage omitted]

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### Security Forces Eliminate 'Criminals'

#### 13 Killed in Algiers Area

*LD2303202595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services announced today that yesterday they eliminated 13 criminals in a number of operations in Algiers, Tipasa, Tiaret, and Skikda. The security forces also recovered a quantity of weapons, home-made bombs, and a stolen vehicle.

#### 26 Reported Killed

*LD2703185795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement released today by the security services announced that the security forces eliminated 26 "criminals" during a number of operations carried out between Saturday [25 March] and today in the capital Algiers, Blida, Boumerdes, Annaba, Batna, Constantine, Saida, Chlef, and Laghouat. During the operations, the security forces recovered a quantity of arms and ammunition.

## Egypt

### Envoy Views Mubarak's Washington Trip, NPT

*NC2503094295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Washington, 25 Mar (MENA)—U.S. and diplomatic sources in Washington agree on the importance of President Husni Mubarak's trip to Washington next week. The same sources note the increasing importance of the visit in light of developments in the Middle East, which affect the peace process in the region, the regional and international developments that have recently surfaced, and the requirements of joint action to consolidate bilateral relations.

For his part, Egyptian Ambassador in Washington Ahmad Mahir has underlined the important talks to be held by President Mubarak with U.S. President Clinton, members of his Administration, and Congressional leaders. [passage omitted]

In an interview with MENA, Ambassador Mahir noted the importance of the recent developments at the U.S. arena, chief among them was the Republicans' victory in the Congressional elections held in fall. He pointed out that the Republican Party has brought in a new agenda giving more attention to the U.S. economy, placing it at the top of all priorities, stressing the need to streamline the U.S. budget deficit, and urging more action to resolve the urgent domestic problems facing the U.S. society. He noted that these problems had existed before but were never placed in a "confrontation" with the U.S. external obligations. He added: What happened is that new faces that have no experiences in international affairs have joined Congress. Although they are only a minority, they are outspoken and say that the "America First" demand means isolation from the world. Ambassador Mahir stressed that both the Republicans and Democrats with enough international experience realize that the United States has an important international role to play to protect its interests and that this role must live up to its status as a superpower that cannot abandon its obligations.

The Egyptian ambassador pointed out that this controversy has resulted in a debate that is now under way in the United States. It was natural for this debate to touch on the question of U.S. external aid, he added. As far as Egypt is concerned, President Mubarak specified Egypt's position following his recent meeting in Cairo with Vice President Al Gore, he added. Egypt realizes that this aid was extremely beneficial at an important era of Egypt's political and economic progress the same as it was also beneficial to the United States, he added. Now that Egypt is implementing its massive economic reform program, which is successful, the question of international cooperation between Egypt and the world countries will take new forms in the coming stage, such as trade, investment, and multifaceted cooperation, and will not necessarily be restricted to aid. This is precisely the meaning of the Mubarak-Gore initiative, he added. Noting that practical steps have already been made to implement this initiative, Mahir pointed out that the initiative seeks to build bilateral relations on new foundations, giving the private sector the opportunity to play a leading role in this regard. Ambassador Mahir noted that this does not mean that aid will completely come to a halt. Instead, he added, the aid will be part of the existing economic ties and a new component in the new formula governing these ties. Thus, if one component is affected at any time it could be compensated for by the other components, he added. Ambassador Mahir referred to President Clinton's statement that the current level of U.S. aid to Egypt will not be affected in 1996. [passage omitted]

The Egyptian ambassador also touched on another important topic to be discussed by President Mubarak during his upcoming visit to Washington; namely, extending the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. In this regard, Ambassador Mahir stressed that the United States is convinced and shows understanding of the Egyptian viewpoint. He noted that the Egyptian position is logical because if we are in the process of establishing a new Middle East and making peace in the region, it is illogical for peace to be made between a country that has a secret nuclear program that it does not want to talk about and other regional countries that do not have such program. He referred to Egypt's diligent efforts to explain its views on the matter and stressed that thanks to these efforts, nobody is arguing about Egypt's, which the United States is convinced of. As a result of this position, he added, Israel is beginning to discuss the matter after having rejected any dialogue or negotiations about it.

Ambassador Mahir went on to say that the problem lies in the timing of and the means for attaining the goal of

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freeing the region of weapons of mass destruction. He noted that the United States does not want the extension of the treaty to be linked to any factor; that is, the treaty should be extended to secure a system of nuclear nonproliferation and in the meantime contacts with Israel should continue so that it may join the treaty. However, Israel says it cannot join the treaty unless comprehensive peace in the region among all countries, including Iran, is achieved. Ambassador Mahir noted that this is unreasonable because the ongoing peace process is among states that were in a state of war. Accordingly, Israel must now proceed toward joining and complying with the treaty because freeing the region of weapons of mass destruction is one of the elements leading to the establishment of peace, he added. He stressed that Israel must prove its goodwill by accepting in principle to join the treaty, by not keeping its nuclear program secret, and by accepting inspection of its installations and other internationally recognized measures of verification.

Ambassador Mahir emphasized that in its handling of the issue of renewing the NPT, Egypt has held tight to principles while showing the necessary flexibility, noting that Egypt's position is both just and moderate. He added that Egypt has no problem with the United States in this regard or with the treaty itself. Egypt, he added, backs the treaty and argues that so long as we are calling for a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, we should hold tight to the treaty. Egypt agrees with the United States in its call for the NPT to be "universal," he added. This is particularly so since consolidating the treaty will not come about by its automatic renewal but by according the treaty the greatest degree of universality, particularly in the Middle East, a sensitive region that is now heading for peace, he added.

Ambassador Mahir noted the importance of explaining the Egyptian view to the U.S. Congress and for the Congressmen to hear it from President Mubarak personally during his meeting with them. The importance is not only because they will listen to President Mubarak personally but also because he has numerous and close ties with the Congress members, who appreciate President Mubarak's straightforward, honest, and clear approach in discussion.

Concluding, Ambassador Mahir emphasized that the existing relationship between Egypt and the United States is one between two friendly states that share a very broad range of close cooperation. However, this does not mean that we always agree on everything. It means that when we disagree on any matter we talk about it until we reach a mutual understanding, he added.

## Perry Said Trying To Form Anti-Iran, Anti-Iraq Axis

*NC2703144295 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Mar 95 pp 1,6*

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] AL-SHA'B has learned that U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry's current tour of the Gulf region, which began with a visit to Riyadh the day before yesterday, is to promote the U.S. containment strategy against Iraq and Iran. During his tour, he will propose the establishment of a joint U.S.-Arab axis to confront possible crises in the region. In his talks he will focus on detailed ideas for building this axis, the primary objective of which is to confront possible Iranian and Iraqi threats to the Gulf region.

Perry will seek to obtain the Gulf states' approval of these detailed ideas before announcing them or submitting them to other Arab states.

According to reports, the anticipated axis will not include Israel in its initial phase, especially at the beginning when the military agreements prepared by the U.S. Defense Department for forming this axis will be signed.

Once this axis is established, the next step will focus on coordinating with the NATO countries to confront the growth of Islamist movements in the region. In recent contacts the United States and the other NATO countries reached agreement on the detailed ideas now under discussion.

Perry's visit to the region will last one week. He will focus on the issue of security in the Gulf, and will inspect the U.S. forces in the Central Command region and visit the cruiser USS Gettysburg and the aircraft carrier USS Constellation. [passage omitted]

## U.S. Anger Over Libyan Policy Questioned

*NC2703162195 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 22 Mar 95 p 14*

[From the "Idea" column by Mustafa Amin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Why should the United States be angry with Egypt for differing with the U.S. view? We are not the only ones who do that; all of the United States' friends sometimes take stands that do not satisfy the United States or that differs from its policy. Even Israel, which always sits on the U.S. lap, sometimes takes a contrary stand.

For instance, the U.S. relations with North Korea are bad and the United States encourages other states to boycott it. But Israel, which believes it is in its interest to befriend North Korea, has paid no attention to Washington's objection or to Uncle Sam's anger. Now it is trying to establish good relations with North Korea and is holding secret negotiations for that. Washington has remained silent and not turned the world upside down or blamed Israel for stepping out of line and failing to heed U.S. advice.

The United States has been boycotting Cuba for 30 years and has called on all its friends to boycott Cuba and not to recognize it. However, its friend France has deemed it necessary to open its doors to President Castro and roll out the red carpet for him. It has refused to walk in the U.S. shadow, preferring France's interests despite U.S. anger.

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Britain, a close U.S. friend, sides with it in all crises but differs with it on many occasions. It sees it as its right to choose whatever policy serves the British interests first. Britain became angry when President Clinton, who has a "special relationship" with Britain, received an extremist Irish official at the White House, ignoring British protests and anger.

But the United States becomes angry with Egypt when it befriends Libya, on which the United States has declared war and called on all countries to boycott and besiege it by air, land, and sea. It is as if Egypt is supposed to befriend those who are friendly to the United States and to be antagonistic those who are hostile to the United States. Egypt is supposed to accept Israel's monopoly on the atomic bomb and to agree with all the other Middle Eastern countries being denied the right to possess a single bomb.

We support friendship among equals and reject slavish subservience.

### Officials, Israeli MP's Have 'Heated' Debate

*NC2703203795 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 20 Mar 95 p 2*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] For over two and a half hours, the People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee was the scene of a heated debate between members of the committee, led by its chairman Dr. Muhammad 'Abdallah, and an Israeli Knesset delegation made up of members of the ruling coalition and the Likud opposition. The visit, which concludes today, is the first since the signing of the peace treaty in 1979. Aside from the committee members, independent Deputy Muhammad al-Badrashini, who insisted on confronting the Israeli delegation, attended the meeting along with independent Deputy Abu-al-Fadl al-Jizawi. The meeting was delayed for approximately one hour because of the delegation's meeting with Speaker Dr. Fathi Surur.

The Egyptian and Israeli delegations sat facing each other at the table while their companions took back seats. The meeting was attended by Israeli Ambassador David Sultan and the Israeli minister plenipotentiary. The Israeli delegation included the son of Menahem Begin, the former Israeli prime minister who signed the peace treaty with the late President Anwar al-Sadat, and the daughter of former Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan.

Speaking at the beginning of the meeting, Dr. 'Abdallah said that this is an important opportunity for a frank discussion between peoples' representatives. He stressed that the Egyptians are devoted to peace, and that resolving the Palestinian issue, in addition to progress on the other tracks, is the key to settling the Middle East problem, provided that peace is just and comprehensive and provides security for all parties.

Ori Or, chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Relations Committee and delegation head, emphasized that both the opposition and the ruling coalition agree on the need to complete the Egyptian-Israeli march of peace and believe in the need for a positive approach to establishing good relations with Egypt. He added: We have not heard a single voice since the signing of the peace treaty with Egypt that sets conditions for good ties with Egypt, for when it comes to relations with Egypt the approach is always positive. He noted that Egypt had courageously taken the lead in making peace and establishing good relations with Israel. He added that bilateral relations need to be separate from rather than dependent on relations with any other party. He added: If we put a "heavy" burden on the "camel" carrying peace between Israel and Egypt the camel will get exhausted and peace will collapse. [passage omitted]

Dr. Muna Makram 'Ubayd rejected Begin's son's description of 'Arafat and the PLO as terrorists. She added: We are living in an era of trying to coexist, not one of confrontation. She described the situation in Gaza as a time bomb, adding that the standard of living has dropped by not less than 25 percent since the establishment of the self-rule Authority, as a result of the closing off of the self-rule areas and the delays in aid to the Palestinians. She asked: How can you describe 'Arafat as a terrorist after he signed the agreement with Israel? Israel, she added, must not hold contacts with some Arab states behind Egypt's back.

Independent Deputy al-Badrashini, who preferred positive confrontation to boycott as the other independent deputies did, said: The oath we have taken, as sons of the 23 July Revolution, is no reconciliation or negotiations with Israel and no recognition of Israel. However, one may be compelled by sickness or disease to take bitter medicine. He added: I heard you describing 'Arafat as a terrorist, but Israel is to blame for all that is happening. The head of your delegation said that we have to look to the future and forget about the past, but how can we forget what Israel has done to the Arab people? How could we forget the Dayr Yasin massacre, the destruction of the Iraqi nuclear reactor, the strike against the PLO headquarters in Tunis, the massacre at the al-Ibrahimi and the al- Aqsa Mosques, the strike against the al-Rabitah factory in Libya, and the massacres of Sabra and Shatila and the Bahr al-Baqar school children? This is only a taste of what Israel has done to this people. Israel only knows the language of force, repression, and domination, he added, noting that Egypt's president and people call for peace on the basis of land for peace, not as Begin sees it or as Israel does with its claims that Jerusalem is its capital.

Al-Badrashini stressed that we are a nation that believes in peace based on justice, not domination, submission, or the use of weapons of mass destruction and nuclear bombs. He noted that there can be no unilateral peace with Egypt. He added: I have come here to send a message to the Jewish people with whom we have no enmity. The enmity has been created by the Zionist ideology, he added, noting that

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the Egyptian people are behind President Mubarak regarding the issues of nuclear weapons, normalization, and a Middle East peace.

Commenting, Or said: It seems that the picture is not clear for Deputy al-Badrashini. He invited him to visit Israel following the return of the Palestinian people. For his part, Dr. 'Abdallah said: We do not share al-Badrashini's views, but we respect his opinion.

For her part, Ya'el Dayan said: When I hear that our country of 20,000 square km and five million people could threaten, endanger, and control the entire region, it seems to me that I live in another country. She noted that talk about a greater Israel is absolutely unfounded and that the current government is working for peace.

Deputy Mamduh al-Jawhari called on Israel to return all the territories it seized in 1967 and demanded guarantees that the balance of power will be maintained. He added that Israel wants to harvest the fruits of peace before making peace.

In a surprising revelation, Dr. 'Abdallah disclosed that the head of the Israeli delegation had conveyed to Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa a correction of Rabin's war remarks. He stressed that Rabin's remarks had not been addressed to the Arab states but were made in the context of a statement to the Israeli opposition, which objected to the continued implementation of the Oslo Agreement. Rabin said verbatim: What is the alternative? Either to continue in peace or go to war. This means that if you do not help me reach peace, we will face war in the short or long term.

### Israeli Knesset Visit Protested

*NC2703172795 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 23 Mar 95 p 1*

[Report by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah]

[FBIS Translated Text] The University of al-Minufiyah yesterday was the scene of sweeping demonstrations against the Israeli Knesset delegation's visit to the People's Assembly. The students burned the Israeli flag on the university campus.

Elsewhere, security forces surrounded the university in Shibin al-Kawm and the college of engineering in Minuf.

### Musa, Yemeni Official Discuss Saudi-Yemeni Accord

*NC2503120695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with visiting Yemeni Deputy Foreign Minister 'Abdu 'Ali 'Abd-al-Rahman.

Following the meeting, 'Abd-al-Rahman said that the meeting discussed developments in the Arab arena and bilateral relations and ways to consolidate them in the various fields.

Touching on the Saudi-Yemeni agreement, the deputy foreign minister said that he briefed Minister Musa on the outcome of the talks held in Saudi Arabia, the agreement to draw up a memorandum of understanding, and developments pertaining to the implementation of that memorandum.

He added that Yemen has set up the necessary committees to embark on the implementation of the agreement.

### Security Troops Kill 4 'Terrorists' in Upper Egypt

*NC2703144995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 27 Mar (MENA)—State Security Intelligence forces early this morning eliminated four fugitive terrorists who had escaped from the Upper Egyptian Governorate of Asyut to al-Minya. They have participated in several terrorist operations that took place recently in Markaz Mallawi and Abu Qurqas of al-Minya Governorate, an Interior Ministry's responsible source stated today.

The source added that information received by the State Security Intelligence Department had confirmed that the aforesaid terrorist elements were taking shelter in a hideout on the road to Amshul, Markaz Dayrut, a region that lies on the borders between Asyut and al-Minya. The source pointed out that after following the legal procedures, troops from the State Security Department and the Asyut Security Directorate, backed by Central Security Forces, stormed the hideout.

The source explained that after cordoning off the hideout and while the troops were conducting a search, they were fired upon. The tight siege and the intensity of fire prevented some of the terrorist elements present at the hideout from trying to escape on motorcycles. As a result, four terrorist elements were killed. They are 'id Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad, Nabil Hifnawi 'Ali Muhammad, Husayn Mamduh Mukhtr 'Uthman, and Hasan Mahmud Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Al. [passage omitted]

The security source explained that a search of the premises revealed two automatic rifles, two Hulwan-type 9-mm pistols with unidentified serial numbers along with four magazines, a large quantity of 9- and 7.62-mm ammunition, two stolen motorcycles without license plates, three bicycles, and some food. Prosecutors have arrived at the scene to start an investigation and inspect the seized items. Criminal laboratory and explosive experts have arrived also to inspect the seized weapons and ammunitions.

## Libya

### Egyptian Ambassador Discusses Border Transit

*NC2403145695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 24 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 24 Mar (MENA)—Ahmad Wahdan, Egyptian ambassador to Libya, has

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stated that during the past two days he discussed with Libyan officials ways of facilitating the passage of citizens across the border between the two countries.

Wahdan told MENA's correspondent in Tripoli that he also discussed with Libyan officials the arrangements for the meeting of the Egyptian-Libyan higher joint committee in Tripoli in April. The meeting will be held under the chairmanship of the two countries' prime ministers.

## Russia's Zhirinovskiy, Delegation Visit Officials

### Official Receives Delegation

*LD2703164695 Tripoli JANA in English 1422 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli al Rabie [March] 27 Jamahiriyah News Agency—The assistant secretariat at the secretariat of the General People's Congress held a meeting today with the deputy chairman of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party, with the attendance of a number of experts from the Great Jamahiriyah and federal Russia.

The assistant secretary welcomed the delegation of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party and expressed his hope at the success of the visit.

He indicated that the Great Jamahiriyah has established distinguished co-operative relations with the Soviet Union in the past but that economic relations have not reached the level of political relations between the two countries.

He confirmed that Russia's interest lies in maintaining relations with the Great Jamahariya and that it is not in Russia's interest to participate with the west in imposing unfair sanctions against the Great Jamahiriyah.

He revealed that the Great Jamahiriyah's relationship with the former Soviet Union was based on equal terms, emphasising that the Great Jamahiriyah is a free state and does not accept any foreign presence on its territory after having ejected the American and British colonialist presence as well as the presence of colonialist settlers. The Great Jamahiriyah is celebrating the evacuation three times a year.

The assistant secretary at the secretariat of the General People's Congress confirmed that the West is seeking to widen the rift between Russia and its Arab friends and the West also seeks to undermine the relationship between Muslims on the one hand and Slavs and Serbs on the other as is taking place presently in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Balkans and Chechnya, with the aim of weakening federal Russia, militarily and economically in order that the West gains Arab and Islamic markets.

The assistant secretary stressed that the West had imposed its domination on the Gulf area following the Gulf war and fabricated the so-called Lockerbie case as a pre-text to interfere in North Africa and impose unfair sanctions on the Great Jamahiriyah.

From his side the deputy chairman of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party denounced the foiled American NATO barbaric aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah which targeted the lives of innocent children, elderly and women who were [words indistinct] and he paid tribute to the resistance of the Arab-Libyan people in countering the aggression and foiling it.

The deputy chairman of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party asserted in his speech the desire to establish distinguished relationships with the great which he considers a major partner.

He said that the Great Jamahiriyah is the prominent topic in the foreign policy of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party and confirmed Russia is proud of that.

He confirmed that the United States and its western allies are acting seeking to control the world following the disintegration of the former Soviet Union, which had been a support for the countries of the Third World.

He also confirmed that America and the West are acting to create confrontation between the Orthodox and Muslims. He called for the need to enhance the continued friendly relations between Russia and the Great Jamahiriyah in order to foil the plotting of the West against the two countries.

The deputy chairman of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party also praised the achievements of the Great Jamahiriyah in all areas and re-affirmed that his party will consolidate the relationships between Russia and the Great Jamahiriyah in the interests of their joint mutual benefit.

### Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Zhirinovskiy

*LD2703192495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1855 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli March 27 TASS—Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi told Russian ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy that he wants Russia to be benchmark for the Arab world.

Al-Qadhdhafi stressed that he wants Russia to regain its strength and influence and become a benchmark for the Arab world, according to Zhirinovskiy who met with him on March 26.

Zhirinovskiy said al-Qadhdhafi received him as a dear guest in a marquee rather than in his palace.

Zhirinovskiy and al-Qadhdhafi agreed that Arab countries could help a new Russia to regain its former might and help them defend their independence like the Soviet Union did in the past.

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The leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia assured al-Qadhdhafi that the faction in the State Duma will seek to facilitate rapprochement between Russia and Libya and lifting of international sanctions on Libya.

### Arab League Body Cables Support to al-Qadhdhafi

*LD2703145595 Tripoli JANA in English 1435 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, al-rabie [March] 27—JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Participants in the activities of the Arab League's round table conference on the conflict of wills and future requirements sent a cable to the leader of the revolution, saluting him and re-asserting their absolute solidarity and support with the Arab-Libyan people against the unfair sanctions which are not targeted not [as received] only against the leader but against the will of the Arab nation and its capacity to resist and achieve the goals of liberation and the building of Arab unity.

The participants said in their cable: As we re-affirm the importance of the unity of struggle we believe that the Arab League is now facing the acid test of its survival and the need for its continuation through a solid position against the blockade imposed on the Great Jamahariyah, Iraq, Palestine and south Lebanon and against any attempts to normalise relations with the Israeli enemy with the aim of preserving the national Arab entity and the preservation of the nation's goals.

The cable said that the participants consider the Arab unity project a document of struggle, which does not target the present situation of the Arab nation but constitutes a strong incentive for the popular masses to develop and advance their national struggle.

## Morocco

### King Returns From U.S., Calls Talks 'Fruitful'

*LD2703125195 Rabat MAP in English 1213 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Rabat, Mar. 27 (MAP)—King Hassan II, accompanied by Prince Moulay Rachid and Princess Lalla Hasna, returned Saturday [25 March] to Morocco from the USA.

The sovereign had paid a three-day state visit to Washington and a private one to New York.

At the end of the visit, King Hassan II sent President Clinton a message of thanks wherein he underlined the frankness and sincerity of talks they held on various issues of common concern, particularly the Middle-East peace process.

The sovereign stressed that his talks with President Clinton and with Secretary of State Warren Christopher were fruitful and will pave the way for the establishment of justice, stability and prosperity.

During his state visit to the USA, King Hassan II held talks with President Clinton and with many officials from the US Administration. He also presided over the signing of two US-Moroccan accords on trade and investment cooperation. [passage omitted]

### Minister Calls For 'Liberation' of Algerian Women

*LD2703133595 Rabat MAP in English 1248 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Mar.27 (MAP)—Moroccan Human Rights Minister Mohamed Ziane called for the liberation of Moroccan women sequestrated in the Tindouf camps (southern-eastern Algeria).

Addressing a meeting on 'Women, Equality, Development and Peace', Ziane said the situation of women in the Tindouf camps should be a priority among issues to be submitted by the Moroccan delegation to the World Conference on Women due shortly in Beijing. The meeting, attended by representatives of women institutions in France, Italy and Spain, is initiated by the Women National Committee of the Popular Movement Party (MP, represented in government) and the International Democratic Christian Movement.

## Sudan

### President al-Bashir Declares Unilateral Cease-Fire

*EA2703210595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The president of the republic, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, has declared a unilateral cease-fire on behalf of the government for two months beginning at midnight tomorrow in support of the efforts of the Carter Foundation for humanitarian service, and in appreciation of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, and Sudan's participation in his campaign to eradicate Guinea worm disease and river blindness. This was stated during a joint international news conference he attended with the former U.S. President at the Friendship Hall this evening. The president of the republic reiterated a general amnesty for all those bearing arms, and called on them to return to the homeland with the genuine intention of rehabilitating what the war has destroyed during the last 12 years. [passage omitted]

### Says Country's War Directed by Foreigners

*EA2603153595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 26 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, addressed the Sudanese nation on the radio saying that the armed forces would do everything

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in their power to liberate all Sudanese towns and rout what remained of the rebels.

His Excellency said that the liberation of al-Nasir should be a message to all the conspirators and their agents. He confirmed that the revolution was ready to sit down at the dialogue table and negotiate, notwithstanding the victories it was scoring day after day. He said: We are not warmongers and we will establish peace with anyone desiring peace. But, if they refuse, we will have to resort to war as an inevitable consequence.

The president of the republic confirmed that the war in Sudan was directed by foreigners who harbor ill will toward Sudan, but who will bring no benefits to the rebels either. His Excellency described the liberation of al-Nasir as an important step toward the liberation of other positions still in the hands of the rebels. He pointed out that the town of al-Nasir is considered the stronghold of the other rebel wing [that of Riak Machar, as opposed to John Garang].

The president extended his sincere congratulations to the Armed Forces, the Popular Defense Forces, the unified police, and all the people of Sudan.

Meanwhile, Major General al-Tubayr Muhammad Salih, the first vice president of the republic, said that the Armed Forces had sworn to cleanse the town of al-Nasir of the filth of the [rebel] agents.

He said: We have pledged to God that all Sudanese areas will be liberated. We are informing the world that Sudan has will and determination.

Major General al-Tubayr said that the liberation of al-Nasir had been the work of the martyr [Jayballah] group under the command of the commander of the military zone of Upper Nile. His Excellency called on the rebels to surrender their arms and return to the homeland as the opportunity still existed for construction, development, and stability. [passage omitted]

### Al-Bashir Condemns Sectarianism at Rally

*EA2603172595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the republic, this morning at the Armed Forces' General Command Square addressed a huge public gathering held to celebrate the recapture of the town of al-Nasir and its liberation from the rebellion's filth at the hands of the Armed Forces and the People's Defense Force.

Lieutenant General al-Bashir expressed his gratitude and praise to God for enabling Sudan to defeat the enemies of faith and the homeland and for bringing joy to the souls of the martyrs who offered their lives cheaply without recapturing the town of al-Nasir during the [words indistinct] of sectarianism. Sectarianism merely traded in the name of the shari'ah and the unity of the homeland for cheap gains, he said. He said: While our Armed Forces were supplying one martyr after another the leaders of sectarianism were pledging loyalty and obedience to the rebels in hotels in Addis Ababa.

Lieutenant General al-Bashir stressed that the banner of tawhid [monotheism] would remain aloft and would never fall. He said the leaders of sectarianism had no place in Sudan.

The president of the republic asked Amnesty International to desist from its hostility toward Sudan, stating that the masses in Sudan were committed to God's shari'ah and would not deviate from this divine path however frenzied the enemies.

Concerning those who talk about the inclusion of the Islamic shari'ah issue on the agenda of talks with the rebels, Lieutenant General al-Bashir pointed out that negotiations on the issue of the shari'ah would only be conducted through the barrel of the gun. He stressed that Sudan would remain united. He condemned the leaders of sectarianism who were endeavoring to undermine the unity of the country. He said that the rebels and their supporters among the political sectarianists were dreaming of a so-called liberation of Sudan in spite of the fact that the people of Sudan had made their choice never to turn back again.

Concluding his remarks, al-Bashir saluted all the martyrs who offered their lives in defense of the faith and the homeland. He also saluted the combatants in the town of al-Nasir calling upon them to extend the scope of the fighting until all Sudanese territory is liberated. [passage omitted].

### Qatari Television Interviews Hasan al-Turabi

*NC2503050995 Doha Qatar Television in Arabic 1845 GMT 11 Mar 95*

[Interview with Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the National Islamic Front, by Muhammad al-Misfir in Khartoum; date not given; from the "Dialogue on an Issue" program—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Misfir] God's peace and blessings be with you dear listeners once again. I welcome you to your weekly "Dialogue on an Issue" program, from Khartoum, capital of fraternal Sudan. Our dialogue tonight deals with fraternal Sudan's problems. We meet once again with one of the leading public figures, a leading politician in Sudan, Dr. Hasan al-Turabi. On your behalf and on behalf of the program staff and those working with us in Khartoum and Doha, we welcome His Excellency Dr. Hasan al-Turabi. Welcome Dr. al-Turabi on our program.

[Al-Turabi] God's peace, mercy, and blessings be with you.

[Al-Misfir] Much is being said about Sudan and there is an argument between its opponents, its supporters, and the Salvation Front's revolution. Sudan's problems are

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varied and numerous, but the first question that comes to my mind is this: At present the international, regional, and local conditions are not conducive to or will not help with the successful establishment of an Islamic state. You have thrown yourself into this tumultuous sea, which is almost being rejected at this time. Do you believe that this is the right time for establishing an Islamic state?

[Al-Turabi] We do not pay any attention to allegations that the climate and conditions prevailing in the world today do not favor an Islamic state, because Islam is a mission from God Almighty. I do not believe that the conditions as recorded by history were so amenable as to allow the Prophet, God's prayers and peace be upon him, to establish his state among that illiterate, backward, poor, and humiliated people. God's will is manifested by history. History does not develop unless new ideas emerge that rejuvenate it. Existing conditions and old interests and whims always try to extinguish these new ideas because they want to freeze the situation. But fate and history never stop. Therefore, despite their conditions and the situation, the Sudanese people have decided to correct the situation, uphold the values of Islam, and unite behind it regardless of the climate around Sudan that is trying to extinguish this flame before it starts to radiate and to nip this new flower in the bud before it blooms and bears fruit. This does not deter us. On the contrary, this is a challenge. This is God Almighty's will and our reward. The great historic changes are memories in the history of humanity. Hence, this challenge around us only makes us more enthusiastic. It is a good sign for us and does not frighten us. It does not deter us, but encourages us to establish the Islamic state in Sudan. [passage omitted]

[Al-Misfir] Dr. al-Turabi, I do not believe that we can compare the emergence of the Islamic dawn under the Prophet, peace be upon him, in holy Mecca 1,400 years ago and today's conditions, because Mecca's economy was simple and trade between Syria and Yemen passed through it. Neither covert nor overt economic blockades were used then. Neither the boycott system nor any of the tools of force were used. It was a concept that was rejected at that time. I believe that a comparison between the Islamic state then and now is not scientific. As a teacher of law and comparative science, what do you say?

[Al-Turabi] Comparison is probably right. There was an economic blockade of the Prophet's city and it caused starvation for his followers. There was also a military and propaganda assault. It has been the same throughout history. Let us look at modern history; take China for example. It used to be a colony that wanted to rise but was economically and militarily encircled and subjected to a propaganda campaign. But today China shows people that the balances of the global system are changing daily. All the renaissance movements and national independence movements had to go through the same thing. [passage omitted]

History teaches that all those who rise, act, and move have to face the present and past which want to trample them and to freeze life. But God takes care of the peoples, and history always moves forward. Sudan itself is proof of this. It is one of the poorest Islamic countries in resources and in its heritage of Islamic jurisprudence. How dare Sudan rise up to follow what we call our trust in God [tawakkulan] and which others call an adventure when other countries have a richer history than us and are richer materially but are still dithering, afraid, and accepting their humiliation. [passage omitted]

[Al-Misfir] Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, these are very beautiful theories like we discuss in universities and debate at intellectual meetings and forums. But people want to know from a statesman how this can be implemented practically. As for China, there are 1.2 billion people there; it is self-sufficient in terms of human and economic resources. It has a huge market for production and consumption. But Sudan, with its small size and the enemies around it—if I may say so—or those who are lying in wait for it, will not be allowed or tolerated to apply or establish an Islamic state. And you know that you are accused of sheltering terrorism.

[Al-Turabi] [passage omitted] If you examine history, you will find that power is not measured by size. What is Britain? It is only an island on the far side of the earth. How did it dominate the world and once thought it would rule the whole earth with its fleets and forces? It controlled a country like India, which is hundreds of times bigger than it. It controlled Africa, America, Australia. And if you say that it had power and so on, do you not see it now declining and degenerating? All history goes in cycles. Where is Rome? What happened to it? Where is old Persia? What happened to it? This is history. It moves this country or that one up or down.

We seek not only nationalism, pan-Arabism, or chauvinism for this country. We know that the growth of an Islamic movement will ignite fires all over the earth, will illuminate the darkness, will wake up the sleeping Muslims in the Arab and African world around us, and will create a new civilization in history. Many big powers now see this. Now that the Russian communist threat is over, they are seeing a ghost—Islam. The United States is now attacking this ghost. It is reading history correctly. It knows that this ghost, although it now looks young and small, is growing and approaching, and that one day, in the balances of life, this ghost will constitute a power that will counterbalance their world order.

[Al-Misfir] Dr. al-Turabi, we do not want to discuss history and the rise and fall of nations. But I have a short remark that will take us to another subject. True, Britain reached and occupied India. It expanded throughout the world through its economic theory, explorers, ships, and machines. That is how it reached the heart of Africa, the Far East, and everywhere. The British empire also found the task easy in the absence of enemies at that time and because it had a strong economy.

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[Al-Turabi] But, my dear brother, Sudan used to be an illiterate country. It did not speak Arabic in the north, east, south, or west. Now, however, this challenge has been confronted and the country has been Arabized. In the past, Sudan was a hungry country, living on relief aid. But today, after only a few years, it has become full of food. It is exporting food, never importing it. Sudan was a humiliated country, a follower of political lines. But now it is a proud country. It was completely forgotten yesterday, with people not knowing where it is located. But today it is mentioned everywhere on earth. Some people love it very much, and others hate it and vent their spite on it. So, we now see history being made in Sudan. These are not theories, and we do not want to dwell on theoretical talk. This is a reality we are now experiencing in Sudan, moving forward with history.

[Al-Misfir] [passage omitted] How do you understand political freedom within Islam, and how is it practically applied in Sudan?

[Al-Turabi] First of all, my dear brother, freedom is God's gift and blessing to man. If God had wanted, he could have made man worship him, without giving him a choice, just like the other creatures that do not hold God's trust; God's natural rulings are inevitably implemented. But man was given the choice to believe or to disbelieve. Freedom is the essence of worshipping God, and it is the basis of religion, because religion means a sincere relationship with God. You cannot force anyone to become a Muslim because he may do it hypocritically, and you do not want hypocrites. These are the principles of Islam.

But now we are living in the real world. What is the accurate balance between public order and the freedom of the individual? We do not want liberty to become chaos, and we do not want order to become a tyranny over the people. There must be a balance. But there can be no single standard for the whole earth. Each country has its own balance. Over the ages, the balance developed toward greater freedom. [passage omitted]

Sudan is a country moving within the framework of life. We know that the West, with its media campaigns and economic and military tyranny, believes in democratic freedom, but it does not believe that this should produce an Islamic state. If it finds that democracy will give birth to a Muslim, it aborts it immediately. We know of such countries—not only the Arab country which we know, but also in another country in Asia and another in north Asia. And the West is doing this throughout Africa. Democracy must be practiced by people; but if it gives birth to a proud newborn seeking independence from Europe—whether this newborn is Islam, African dignity, or national pride—the West immediately buries it, steps over it, or dominates it. [passage omitted]

We now want to build freedom as a living structure, not as a decorative thing or a nominal thing in our lives. Freedom is built from below, and total freedom for the country should assure that the West will not control us by force and deal with us as it pleases. This is the meaning of freedom now; it is for the cause of God, for the cause of religion; for the cause of freedom itself, the freedom that religion wants, an absolute freedom. God himself did not want to impose his will on man, so how can the West do that? God himself did not want to force man to believe or disbelieve, so how can a religious leader control us as if he was a pope, or a tribal leader control us as if he was Adam. Adam, our father, did not do this to us. This is the battle that is now taking place in Sudan.

[Al-Misfir] Regarding the freedom issue, I wish to ask specifically how far is it applied in Sudan? For example, you in the National Salvation revolution have set up platforms for yourselves from which to speak. You call them popular participation platforms and they express the National Salvation revolution's ideology. Why do you prevent others from setting up similar platforms and speaking from them? As we have learned—and perhaps you know more about this—this is the system of checks and balances [preceding three words in English], that is effecting a balance.

[Al-Turabi] A balance, yes.

[Al-Misfir] Where does Sudan stand on this?

[Al-Turabi] First of all, although the National Salvation revolution is an Islamic trend, do you not agree that it gives freedom to non-Muslims—the people remotest from us—to worship as they wish, whether they worship Christ or, as in southern Sudan, worship a crocodile? They are allowed to do whatever they wish. They have freedom now. Some of them are demanding the secession of the south. Some of them do so in Khartoum, in our midst, from both official and popular podiums. They do what they wish. Do you agree that the revolution has also given freedom to the communists, for example? It has released them from jail and allowed them to say what they want publicly. It has also given freedom to those who wish to be in the opposition. These people used to be on the seat of power and wished to monopolize it permanently.

The conflict, therefore, is not over Islam but over power. Let them say whatever they want on the world's radio stations and in the world's newspapers. Future elections will be held on the provincial, not the national level. They are open to everyone. No one will be banned from contesting them because of his past actions or views. Absolutely not. All people are equal. However, political parties based on religious persuasions contrary to Islam itself and the principle of freedom have been banned. In Europe freedom rose against the Church itself because the Church abandoned freedom. Tribally based political parties have also been banned because we do not want to elevate the tribe to the level of political party. A tribe has no platform to submit to the voters.

I am not saying that the current conditions are ideal. Sudan is still making progress. In two days there will be national elections for the Consultative Council. There

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will be a presidential election during which we will not nominate just one candidate who will get 99 point something percent. There will be several candidates who will submit platforms and the people will choose. The freedom of the press is increasing and will increase further. [passage omitted]

[Al-Misfir] Mr. al-Turabi, in the context of popular participation or—if we so describe it—pluralism, the National Salvation movement is being accused of laying off a large number of government employees, not for the purpose of economizing but to get rid of those who refused to cooperate with you or remained passive, and that you are replacing them with cadres of the National Islamic Front or the Islamic revolution movement, if you wish to call it so. This has caused a brain drain and many highly qualified people have emigrated and are living in the diaspora.

[Al-Turabi] [passage omitted] You know that the National Salvation revolution wishes to devolve power to the provinces. It does not wish to leave all power in the hands of Khartoum. This is a federalist system. The state was formerly socialist; all the former regimes were socialist. The government now wishes to return the money to the people and therefore it does not want to maintain a huge army of employees. Formerly all graduates wanted to become government employees because that is where the money was. The common people, the farmers, the shepherds, and so on were the poor class. Now the wealth has been redistributed. The unknown people of the past are now the owners of the increasing wealth—the farmers and those who raise livestock. As a result government employees began to suffer the effects of inflation. Wealth has been privatized and is finding its natural balance. The Sudanese dinar will find its real market value now. Formerly it was given an artificial exchange rate but today it is left to find its own value against foreign currencies. This caused inflation, and many people stopped wanting government jobs because the salaries are low. The government also wants to limit the number of its employees to what is actual needed, no more. Politics plays no part in this process at all. The test is not a political one, but one of competence, qualifications, and hard work. If you are not a hard worker, you will be separated from government service even if you have good potential. As for the armed forces, they are a pyramidal hierarchy. As its members are promoted, some must leave the service because the top of the pyramid cannot accommodate as much as the base. This is clear. Therefore, people are either promoted after a few years or they leave. This is the rule. [passage omitted]

[Al-Misfir] Your adversaries say that you are an opportunist. You were formerly a member of the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] which stands accused of being created by the West, by Britain. It was also said that when the Islamic movement and the MB failed to reach power, Dr. al-Turabi moved over to the so-called secularists. Having belonged to the Islamic movement, the MB, Dr. al-Turabi then adopted the ideas of the Sudanese Socialist Union and led that party in Sudan. That party was established in Egypt and you have a known stance on the Nasirites. What is your reply, now that you have moved to another stage, one of being at the top of the pyramid of authority in Sudan's Islamic Salvation Revolution movement?

[Al-Turabi] Some people rely on their heritage and want to live off the glory of their predecessors, fathers, and forefathers. Regardless of my ancestors, I do not rely on the past. [passage omitted]

I was an Islamist when I went to university, but I did not want to be bound by a sect or a party. I wanted to proceed in life and advance. That is progress. It is not just one leap, but keeping moving forward and never being cocooned by a former idea or framework. There was a movement called the Islamic Liberation, which I joined to oppose the communist and liberal trends. We were then called the MB, but that was a propaganda campaign against the MB in Egypt. We accepted that name. But at first we were a group of intellectuals. Then we became an Islamic charter front and then we became the National Islamic Front. Islam is one and we never change it.

I have now left the National Islamic Front because I do not want to be a party member. I do not want to stagnate and I never accept fanaticism. I want to keep moving forward and I want freedom. Freedom means scope for action. Progress means to move toward what will be useful for you tomorrow. There is now an Islamic trend born of the people and not the government or one man or the military or a party. It is born of a people and led by its government with the people behind it. I am in this trend. I know that it will never be a Sudanese trend and I do not want it to stay Sudanese. It will become a global trend because Islam has no borders. [passage omitted]

Do you call this opportunism? An opportunist is one who has no principles or values but wants to gain and therefore seizes opportunities. But you can call a person who sees the changes in life and moves with them a progressive but not an opportunist. I will remain as I am till I die. I will always advocate the most recent ideas against the latest challenges until my last breath, for the sake of the homeland and even for the sake of pan-Arab and pan- African nationalism and the universe, God willing. [passage omitted]

[Al-Misfir] I did not say that you are an opportunist, but one who seizes opportunities. This is what your adversaries are saying. Can I interpret your move from one Islamic movement to another, to the Socialist Union, a nationalist, and to an Islamic Jihad movement as being a case of having doubts, a case of searching for the truth?

[Al-Turabi] No. You have the truth, but you move along. Whenever God tests you again, you do not stay bound by an old test but you renew your course, ideas, and spirit. [passage omitted]

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You can see how poor Sudan is pulling ahead of Arab countries that are richer in history and wealth. How can it do so when it used to lag behind the others? Where were the orthodox, 'Abbaside, Umayyad, and Fatimiyah caliphates? Where are the money and wealth now? How has Sudan managed to make progress?

[Al-Misfir] Where is this progress?

[Al-Turabi] It is the only thing in the world unbroken by U.S. tyranny. The Arabs are being humiliated now. Sudan is the only country saying no to Israel while the Arab world is now rushing to it, as you can see. Sudan is the only one that wants to rise through its own resources and exploit them on its own, while the Arabs throw the resources that come their way to the western and eastern banks. Sudan alone has gone back to God, to religion. This religion came to us from our Arab brothers. Why is Sudan, which received religion, now rising while those who exported religion in the past are now sitting down?

[Al-Misfir] According to your criteria, it has advanced to the front ranks in waving the banner of Islam?

[Al-Turani] And also made progress materially. It was hungry but it is now exporting.

[Al-Misfir] But the statistics in my hands say that the poverty rate in the villages is 90 percent and that accounts for more than 80 or 70 percent....

[Al-Turabi, interrupting] That person knows nothing about statistics. I tour all over Sudan. I was born in a village and studied there, but I have travelled all over Sudan and I know it. Seventy or 80 percent of the Sudanese are cattlemen or farmers. They were being persecuted even before the British left. It is different now. Agriculture is now thriving and their wealth is growing. They themselves are spending on education, hospitals, roads, and engineering services. The cattlemen are now very rich. Maybe whoever talked to you is an employee, one who wants to sit in offices and monopolize the people's money. In the past the poor represented around 80 percent. But the situation has now changed.

[Al-Misfir] Let me get back to the Arabs and Sudan. Allow me first to ask this: Do you believe that the conflict between the National Islamic Front and the al-Ansar and even between the al-Khatimiyah and the al-Ansar is a sectarian or religious struggle inside Sudan?

[Al-Turabi] No, dear brother. The al-Ansar were at the heart of the National Islamic Front or the Islamic trend that preceded this rejuvenated and modern trend. They were in its leadership and rank and file. But a small group of the al-Ansar cared only about physical appearances, such as beards, the Islamic dress, and tombs. But the majority of the al-Ansar followed the teachings of the Prophet and did not care about beards. They cared about his teachings on governing, jihad, and economics, those aspects with which he changed life. The al-Ansar did not oppose the communists or the British when they governed Sudan. They did not oppose the parties which ruled contrary to God's tenets and the Prophet's teachings. But a small group of them began to talk about the Salvation Government for reasons I do not want to go into, but which are in fact known. This is now over and some of those involved are now governors in the Salvation Government. [passage omitted]

[Al-Misfir] Mr. Hasan, in your view, what are the repercussions of the resolutions taken by the recent Islamic summit in Morocco, which was immediately followed by the Islamic Arab countries' interior ministers' meeting in Tunis to confront the Islamic fundamentalist movement? How do you in the Salvation revolution view this?

[Al-Turabi] Dear brother, the Islamic summit was like foam covering the Muslims, like the foam on top of water. The foam might one day dry up, but the water that nourishes the people remains, as God Almighty's verses tell us. The foam covering the Muslims now is meeting there. I met in the past with such foam and prepared my arguments, but God willed the foam to dry up.

That summit did not in fact represent the Muslims. It did not seriously deal with the Muslims' problems. The Muslims today are suffering from tragedies and calamities in Asia, Europe, Palestine, and Africa. The summit did not confront these problems but confronted only Islamic fundamentalism. We know that they are not a group of religious jurists with whom I can differ but whose knowledge I respect. At their previous meeting they outlawed jihad; and this means that we forego the word jihad because that summit ordered us to do so. The fundamentalism they now see as extremism is far removed from their stands. What is their stance on Islam now? Are they at the heart of Islam now so that they can regard those who are more pious as fundamentalists?

Now they are lax, not only about Islam but political pride. You know who rules the world. Is it governed by these governments or others that manipulated this summit? I know, because I was a foreign minister once. They manipulate summits and say to make this or that resolution, cancel what they do not like, and order what they like. They talk about fundamentalism, but by their own criteria, this is not fundamentalism but centrism. I pray to God Almighty that the Muslims will act with more determination than this centrism which they see as fundamentalism.

Why did we form the Popular Arab Islamic Conference? Because Muslims had no platform for free speech. Hence, the conference was formed so that Muslims can come from all corners of the earth, from Japan, the United States, Arabs and non-Arabs, Asians, Africans, Europeans, Arabs. They meet, bypass sectarian and Shiite and Sunni differences. They are not rulers or Islamic organizations but Muslims who meet and talk.

[Al-Misfir] But it is said that this is a grouping of terrorist movements, that Sudan is the real haven for the Islamic terrorist movements, that elements provide

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them with finance and guidance, and that the Sudanese authority protects this terrorism.

[Al-Turabi] Are the Japanese who accepted Islam and came to this conference terrorists in their country? Japan does not even regard them as Muslims. Is the British Islamic Party—a totally British one—a terrorist party? It is a party in Britain and takes part in elections. Even Britain does not regard it as terrorist. The British do not fear it even if old Muslims do. What do you think of the Afro-American and whites who came to that conference? What do you think of those who are governing Pakistan, the opposition party there, the religious societies in Pakistan? Are they all terrorists? Some of them were rulers, others were in the opposition, some were intellectuals and writers who came here and met.

As for the issue of terrorism, this is an accusation that our kinsmen sneaked to the West and the latter began to talk and claim that our people are saying that we are terrorists. Ask the Sudanese people, they have never known of a case of political assassination in their lives. We are not like other countries that continue to kill their rulers. Who killed [third caliph] 'Utham Bin-'Affan? Not the Sudanese, but a sect from another country which is still killing its rulers. We do not kill rulers. I travel all over Sudan and propagate Islam but no one kills me. I am not afraid of being killed in Sudan. The Western rulers now walk in Khartoum's streets and do not even find an armed policeman to safeguard the country from terrorism. I spoke to their families and they told me that they are safer here than in their own capitals. There is no terrorism in Sudan. Many ambassadors have come to Sudan with this idea. They spoke to me about it and said: We thought this was a fact as reported by the media, but now we know that it is a lie because we have seen with our own eyes.

[Al-Misfir] Statements by religious thinkers in numerous Arab countries have demonstrated a stance advocating reconciliation with hostile forces until such a time as the Muslims become strong again. The Muslims are now weak. They point out that if this weakness persists, it will cause the Muslims to perish. To what degree do you agree or disagree that the Muslims are weak and must keep a low profile when confronting others?

[Al-Turabi] Those who issue fatwas are frequently people who have learned certain texts by heart and are not conversant with their political implications. They cannot properly assess weakness and strength, particularly those who have issued fatwas in the name of religion. They are ignorant people who do not read the newspapers or understand the facts of life. Their fatwas are those of ignorant people. For example they say that a Muslim may eat pork if he is hungry. These are stupid fatwas, really. Let us examine how the Arabs became weak. In the past the Arabs were not very strong but they stuck to their principles. However because of their infighting they weakened and their Israeli enemy became strong. They could have endured and not shown eagerness to reconcile with the enemy. They could have endured in their position even if they could not make actual moves to regain their rights because they had lost their strength. However, it is necessary to stick to one's principles. In the past, during the Crusades, the Arabs were weak and the Westerners captured Jerusalem from them. The Arabs endured, however, even if they could not restore their rights. They clung steadfastly to their position that such and such is the rightful thing and that the other thing is wrong. After about 100 years Saladin came and restored their rights. Now, however, should the people abandon their rights because they do not have the power to get them back? No, they must endure. This is the position of religion. Why did Muhammad preach his religion? He was weak but he did not surrender and bargain over principle. He did not compromise and say we will worship our God one day and your gods another day. These are neither religious nor historic stances. They are transient Arab stances and illustrate weakness and an affliction.

[Al-Misfir] Can we conclude from this argument that the Muslims are not weak?

[Al-Turabi] The Muslims get weaker the farther they go from God, may He be praised and exalted. The closer they are to God, the stronger they get. God is strong [Qawiy]. We use this term in our personal names such as 'Abd-al-Qawiy, 'Abd-al-'Aziz, 'Abd-al- Qahhar, 'Abd-al-Jabbar [names meaning servant of the strong, servant of the indomitable, servant of the vanquisher, servant of the powerful]. Why do we use these names if we do not believe that strength comes from God? The closer we are to God, the stronger He makes us. There is no weakness here. God will give us victory. If God helps you, none can overcome you. [Koranic verse] What I want to say is that the Muslims today have drawn away from Islam. Their leaders are actually the farthest from God. That is why they have lost their resolve and weakened. Moreover, let not the Muslims think that others will respect them if they imitate them. They will humiliate us further, despise us, and rob us of our wealth, power, learning, and the ability to acquire technology. We will grow progressively weaker.

[Al-Misfir] These days the peace talks between the Arabs and Israel are in high gear. Do you expect that the peace talks and the Arabs desire to sign peace agreements with Israel will achieve the Arab goal, given the weak Arab position?

[Al-Turabi] Islam calls for peace and exhorts the Muslims to talk peace to one another. Even when we greet one another we use the word peace. Islam does not allow us to resort to force or violence except when an act of aggression takes place against Muslims. If an Arab country commits an act of aggression against another Arab country it might be pardoned and ignored. However, when aggression may destroy the basis of our lives, we must confront it and fight back. This is what Prophet Muhammad did with the Jews, as you know. He and the Jews formulated the Constitution of Medina and he

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considered them as part of his structure and state. But the Jews, as you know, betrayed him. The Jews believed that a member of the Quraysh clan who did not believe in the after life or God was better than the believers. The Jews betrayed the Prophet in battle. So the Prophet drove them out of Medina. These days the call for peace is not in line with this Islamic principle or within its framework. God Almighty advises against the call for peace because we have been despised, humiliated, and attacked. We have capitulated and asked for peace. The Koran says that the Muslims may call for peace from a position of strength. The Koran says: "But if the enemy incline toward peace, do thou also incline towards peace, and trust in God: For He is the one that heareth and knoweth all things." But the Jews have not inclined toward peace. We are rushing headlong after them and their peace. You know how wide the gap is between us and them in all areas. We are rushing eagerly toward the Jews separately and not even in unison so that we might get something out of the bargaining. We have rushed headlong toward Israel. The humiliated Arab parties did not agree to go together so that they might at least lessen their humiliation.

Therefore, I do not consider this to be peace, or a real peace. I believe that this peace has provoked Arab public opinion. I talked to thousands of ordinary Arabs, they are seething with anger at how things ended up in such humiliation. The Arabs have been humiliated and fragmented. All Arab countries are in disarray and in disagreement with one another. The Arab international status has fallen so low. This shock will cause the Arabs to wake up. One day the Arabs will offer peace on the principle of justice and not humiliation. They will offer peace on an even-handed basis. We want to promote the status of the Arabs and we want the Arabs to deal with the world as a nation with a mission. The Arab nation should be a leader of the world and not a follower of others.

[Al-Misfir] Throughout your political life, you have passed through more than one political experience to achieve national reconciliation in Sudan. Do you not believe that the current situation in Sudan is in dire need of national unity so that those who agree or differ with you can close ranks even if you may have to share posts?

[Al-Turabi] You know that I do not hold any post at present and will not agree to accept one. As for national reconciliation, Sudan currently is seeking to reconcile with southern Sudan, although certain factions have rebelled and left Sudan. Sudan is trying to bargain with these factions and making overtures toward this end. As for national reconciliation in the north and among the traditional forces, Sudan cherishes traditions and the political forces agree on and never differ over the major causes. In the past, some people wanted independence but others wanted union with Egypt. Eventually the Sudanese factions concurred on independence. We reconciled with Numayri even though he slaughtered many people and imprisoned many others, because we wanted to have freedom and not to share posts with him. We joined the Socialist Union not because we believe in leftist socialism but to tell Numayri that I wanted to preach and promote Islam. He told me that I could do what I wanted. So we promoted Islam in Sudan and Islam made strides and Numayri himself began to apply Islam. He changed from a communist who ruled Sudan to the first leader to introduce banks and taxes in line with the Islamic shari'ah. The Islamic laws have been growing in Sudan since that time.

You are asking me about national reconciliation: if you want, you can go to a conference held in Sudan by 1,000 tribal leaders—actually all of Sudan's tribes and clans. They have paid the same homage and made the same pledge, rising above party fanaticism, tribal bigotry, and religious sectarianism. National reconciliation has been established and entrenched in the hearts of the Sudanese people. [passage omitted]

[Al-Misfir] One final question, Dr. Hasan. Despite your constant denials, Sudan and the Arab and foreign worlds see you as the primary politician in Sudan with your aides in charge of political positions. How long will this vagueness last and briefly what is your view of Sudan's future?

[Al-Turabi] If you mean by vagueness that I have a secret position but do not want it to be seen, then, as I have told you before, I do not believe this, not even in religion. I do not accept being called an imam or shaykh, not even being called a doctor. I am simply one of the people who contributes his views. [passage omitted]

If you are talking about a political position, then go and look and you will see that those in charge of policies are not ordinary people but elderly and qualified. I do not believe that those in charge of policy or those in the Sudanese Armed Forces and their branches are controlled by one person and follow his orders. These are illusions and myths. I understand the West. It does not believe in God. It does not believe that Sudan is guided by God Almighty. It thinks that this is a plot with one person in charge, not God, and therefore looks for a master plotter. They are like that in their countries. They have a pope and believe that there is a black pope in Sudan. This is a myth.

I am not a politician. Some people believe that I am a religious thinker who explains, writes books, and issues fatwas. I do not like fatwas. But I am a thinker, I travel the world. I have visited Indonesia, Morocco, the United States, and Japan. I travel all over the world and talk about Islam and spur the Islamic movement in these countries. What position? Foreign minister? I would then be bound by diplomacy and protocols. No. I am a thinker and speak to merchants everywhere though I am not a merchant. I am not a politician or a university teacher today. [passage omitted]

[Al-Misfir] A final question, Dr. al-Turabi. You have just said that you are not a politician. Do I understand from

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this that you are the spiritual father of the Salvation Revolution, on a par with Khomeyni in Iran?

[Al-Turabi] Our brothers the Shiites in Iran did not believe the state represented them. They focused on their organization, and the positions in it were different. I do not believe in churches or belonging to this or that church. God Almighty ordered us not to be like the Jews and Christians. I do not believe in this and I do not want to be called the spiritual father of anyone at all. I care about faith, culture, and knowledge for myself and for all people. I care about public policies and about a livelihood for myself and for all people. I do not want to be compared to any man who became religiously, politically, or intellectually prominent or a reformer. [passage omitted]

## Iraqi State Minister Pays Official Visit

### Meets Assemby Official

*EA2403125095 Khartoum SUNA in English 1026 GMT 23 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 23 Mar (SUNA)—Head of the external relations committee at the Transitional National Assembly (TNA) Professor Muhammed Shakir al-Saraj received Wednesday [22 March] at his office the visiting Iraqi state minister and advisor at the presidency, Adnan al-Ani.

Prof. al-Saraj hailed the Iraqi steadfastness and achievements scored despite the embargo and reiterated Sudan support to Iraq until the embargo is lifted after Iraq has abided by the Security Council resolutions.

The Iraqi minister, on his part, stressed that the strength of ties between the two countries is based on refusal of hegemony.

Prof. al-Saraj, at the end of the meeting, stressed the importance of exchanging visits to strengthen ties between the two countries [words indistinct] for the good of the Arab world.

### Cooperation Agreement Signed

*EA2403132495 Khartoum SUNA in English 1017 GMT 24 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 24 Mar (SUNA)—Sudan and Iraq have signed Thursday [23 March] here a joint cooperation agreement. Cabinet Affairs Minister Dr. Awad al-Jaz and the Iraqi advisor of the Presidency, Adnan al-Ani, have signed on behalf of the two sides.

Dr. al-Jaz has stressed the Sudanese people's support for the Iraqi people, urging the Muslim and Arab nations to unify ranks to confront the new challenges facing both Arab and Muslims.

The joint talks also tackled bilateral relations. The visiting Iraqi official who accompanied the delegation has paid an inspection visit to the Gezira project, Sinnar Da, and Kenana sugar company.

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## Bahrain

### Heir Apparent Receives Cable From Gore

*JN2703194995 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 27 Mar (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and commander in chief of its Defense Force, has received a cable from U.S. Vice President Al Gore on the occasion of his visit to the region, wishing the Bahraini amir, government, and people continued progress, stability, and prosperity.

The U.S. vice president also said he hopes cooperation between the State of Bahrain and the United States will continue in all fields.

The U.S. vice president said he looks to visiting Bahrain in the near future.

## Kuwait

### Oil Company, Union Representatives Meet

*LD2703170095 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1526 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 27 Mar—An official source at the Kuwait Oil Company said that representatives of the company and workers union held a meeting here today to discuss points of disagreement between them.

In a news statement, the source said that the meeting, which was called by the chairman of the company's board of directors and delegate member of the company, Khalid al-Fulayj, in accordance with the instructions of Oil Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Mid'aj, the meeting succeeded in narrowing down the points of disagreement.

The source pointed out that the chairman of the company's board of directors thanked the union representatives for their good initiative and their call for ending the strike and returning to work, out of their concern for the country's supreme interest.

He added that agreement was reached on resuming the negotiations to discuss the remaining points of disagreement between them at a meeting to be held tomorrow morning.

It is to be recalled that the union had called for a strike at the production and maritime departments of the Kuwait Oil Company, which started on 18 March and went on for a week, demanding improvement of workers living conditions.

### Reportage on Visit by Algeria's Dembri

#### Dembri Arrives

*LD2403205095 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri arrived in the Kuwait today on an official visit in response to an invitation from Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, who welcomed him among others at the airport. [passage omitted]

In a statement, the Algerian foreign minister affirmed that the visit came within the framework of consultations between the State of Kuwait and Algeria regarding issues of common interests, as well as the discussion of means of consolidating bilateral relations.

#### Meets Amir, Prime Minister

*LD2503110995 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His highness the amir today met His Excellency Mohamed Salah Dembri, the foreign minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria [as heard], who handed his highness a message from President Liamine Zeroual, president of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. [passage omitted]

His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, this morning met in his office at Bayan Palace His Excellency Mohamed Salah Dembri, the foreign minister of the sisterly People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, and the delegation accompanying him, on the occasion of their visit to the country. [passage omitted]

#### Says Iraq Must Abide by UN Resolutions

*LD2503212495 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1905 GMT 25 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 25 Mar—At a news conference at the end of his visit to Kuwait today, Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri has stressed the need for Iraq to comply with all the Security Council resolutions concerning the war of liberating Kuwait, particularly those related to the immediate release of prisoners held in Iraqi jails.

The Algerian minister said: It would not be possible to coexist with a regime that does not abide by international resolutions.

This was a remark about Iraqi prevarications with regards to the resolutions of international legitimacy.

At the conference, Dembri talked about the situation in his country and reiterated the rejection of any attempt to make the Algerian crisis an international issue. [passage omitted]

### Prisoners Affairs Official Meets Russian Envoy

*LD2503115395 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, chairman of the National Committee of Prisoners Affairs, this morning met General Dmitriy Volkogonov,

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the Russian president's adviser and chairman of the prisoners committee, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, which was attended by the Russian ambassador to Kuwait, the two sides discussed the latest developments regarding the Kuwaiti prisoners and hostages. The Russian official said that Russia is not sparing any effort in order to see an end to this humanitarian issue and the release of these prisoners from the jails of the Iraqi regime.

The chairman of the National Committee of Prisoners Affairs showed the Russian guest the documents and evidence which prove beyond any doubt the presence of Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq.

### Amir Meets Russian Delegation

*LD2603105695 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Highness the Amir received this morning at 9000 hours the chairman of the National Committee of Prisoners and Missing People Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim Al Sabah who introduced to him the visiting Russian delegation, which was led by the Russian president's adviser and chairman of the Russian Federation' Committee for Prisoners Affairs Gen Dimitriy Volkogonov, on the occasion of their visit to the country. [passage omitted]

### Heir Apparent Receives French Defense Minister

*LD2703095195 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0915 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 27 Mar—French Defense Minister Francois Leotard today met Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister. [passage omitted]

### UN's Ekeus Arrives for Talks With Officials

*LD2703180095 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 27 Mar—Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN special committee charged with removing Iraq's mass- destruction weapons, arrived here today from Baghdad to hold talks with Kuwaiti officials on the latest developments regarding the committee's efforts to monitor Iraq's unconventional armament.

Ekeus was welcomed by Muhammad Abu al-Muhsin, Kuwait's permanent representative at the United Nations, and 'Abd al-Hamid al-'Awadi, head of international organization's department at the Foreign Ministry.

### 'Important' Oil Accord Reached With South Africa

*LD2703190295 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1510 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 27 Mar—The Kuwait Petroleum Corporation here today signed an important oil agreement with state-owned SASOL Oil of South Africa, on the basis of which the company will be supplied with 25,000 barrels of crude oil per day in 1995.

The executive assistant to the delegate member at the corporation's marketing department, Husayn al-Shamma', told the Kuwaiti news agency KUNA that: This agreement is the second of its kind with SASOL Oil. The aim is to supply its refineries with Kuwait crude oil for a year; about 1.25 million tonnes in 1995.

He said that the corporation had signed an agreement with the company in 1994, on the basis of which it was supplied with 20,000 barrels per day. [passage omitted]

Al-Shamma' said that relations with South Africa started after the trade embargo was lifted by the UN in 1994, pointing out that Kuwait was one of the first countries to sign an agreement in the field of oil with South Africa.

[passage omitted]

### Minister Names 3 New Communications Officials

*LD2503110395 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] His highness the amir met today with Jasim Muhammad al-'Awn, minister of communications, electricity and water, who introduced to His Highness Faysal 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Umr, Walid Dawud Sulayman al-Najjar, and 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-'Usaymi, on their appointment as assistant undersecretaries at the Communications Ministry.

## Qatar

### Heir Apparent Receives Messages From Gore, Dole

*JN2703193195 Manama WAKH in English 1615 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Doha, March 27 (GNA)—Qatari Heir Apparent and Defence Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani has received two written messages, the first from the U.S. Vice President Al Gore and the second from the U.S. Senate majority leader Bob Dole, dealing with cooperation ties in a number of bilateral fields.

The messages were handed over by the U.S. Ambassador to Qatar Kenton Keith during a meeting with the heir apparent and defence minister here today.

### Defense Minister Departs for UK Visit

*JN2603084595 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0650 GMT 26 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 26 Mar (WAKH)—Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Abdallah Al Thani, minister of state for defense affairs and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces in the State of Qatar, this morning left for

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the United Kingdom on an official visit at the invitation of the British Defense Ministry.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY has said that the Qatari minister will hold talks with high ranking British officials dealing with ways to further relations between the two countries and issues of common interest.

## Saudi Arabia

### Industry Minister Receives British Board of Trade Head

*LD2603125495 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1155 GMT 26 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 26 Mar (SPA)—His Excellency 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Zamil, minister of industry and electricity, received this morning in his office Michael Heseltine, president of the British Board of Trade, and his accompanying delegation.

Talks on all aspects of cooperation between the Kingdom and Britain, particularly in the economic field, on opportunities for investment in the Kingdom's industries, the setting up of more joint projects, and how to benefit from British technical and industrial know-how were held at the meeting. [passage omitted]

## United Arab Emirates

### Reportage on Visit by Algeria's Dembri

#### Dembri Arrives With Message

*LD2503223395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 25 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Algerian Foreign Minister] Mohamed Salah Dembri arrived this evening in Abu Dhabi on a visit to the United Arab Emirates which will last two days.

The UAE news agency has said that Dembri is carrying a message from the head of state Liamine Zeroual to the UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan. [passage omitted]

#### Delivers Letter to President

*JN2603105195 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 26 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The President, His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, has received a letter from Algerian President Lamine Zeroual. The letter deals with the current conditions on the Arab and international scenes and the constant consultations between the two countries, which aim to serve the causes of the Arab and Islamic nation and the bilateral relations of the countries in all domains.

The letter was delivered by Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri during his meeting with his highness the president of the state at al-Jurf Palace this morning.

Following the meeting, the Algerian foreign minister said that he briefed his highness the president of the state on the overall situation in his country and the future horizons of political activity in Algeria. He also briefed his highness on the economic reform and development programs Algeria intends to carry out. [passage omitted]

#### Commends UAE Policies, Efforts

*JN2603115195 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 26 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Algerian Foreign Minister His Excellency Mohamed Salah Dembri has commended the wise policy of President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, and his continuing efforts to achieve Arab solidarity and discard differences to enable the Arab nation to face challenges and assume the position it deserves in the international community.

In an exclusive statement to the Emirates News Agency, he restated Algeria's absolute support for the United Arab Emirates [UAE] sovereignty over its three occupied islands: Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa. He said that his country was one of the first countries to stress the UAE's right to restore these islands before the UN General Assembly in September 1993 and October 1994, and in all international fora.

Answering a question on whether Algeria supports the UAE's inclination to refer the issue to the International Court of Justice, he said: Our stand in Algeria is that these islands are occupied Arab lands that should be returned to the UAE. If the UAE seeks a judicial solution in the Hague or elsewhere, then this is part of its tasks and responsibility to restore its rights.

The Algerian foreign minister called on Arab countries to reevaluate the joint Arab action and delineate future horizons, given the current developments on the international level. He stressed the need for realizing greater solidarity, boosting respect for Arab principles and charters, including the principle of the sovereignty of each Arab state, and bypassing all differences and contradictions among Arabs.

He said his visit to the UAE is a good opportunity to coordinate cooperation between the two countries, especially since the UAE- Algerian joint committee has been holding meetings since 1990. He said that he is carrying some ideas that he will discuss with state officials to activate these relations. He pointed out that there is a serious political dialogue and economic and cultural relations which the two parties constantly seek to promote.

Regarding the current situation in Algeria, Mohamed Salah Dembri said that his country has a political plan to organize presidential elections before the end of this

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year. He added that the present transitional period comes in implementation of a plan agreed upon during the national symposium on national reconciliation that was held in January 1994 and which initiated the principle of dialogue.

He said that the Algerian Government encourages every objective and active contribution to find the solutions needed to overcome the various crises plaguing Algeria.

### Rejects Talks Outside Algeria

*LD2703090695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri affirmed that the dialogue in Algeria is based on respect for the 1989 Constitution, the rules of pluralism, the opinions of others, power rotation, and rejection of violence as a means of acquiring power.

At a news conference given before leaving Abu Dhabi yesterday, following his two-day visit to the UAE, Dembri underscored the government's rejection of dialogue with political powers outside Algeria, even if that dialogue is held in an Arab country. He added that any political dialogue between the national forces should take place inside Algeria and not abroad, and away from any foreign intervention.

The foreign minister said that many political affiliations and convictions among Algerians have changed, expecting the emergence of new political currents during the elections which will take place between July and December.

### Daily on Aim of Western Visits To Self-Rule Areas

*JN2703221595 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 25 Mar 95 p 1*

[Editorial: "Aid or Civil War?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Western countries, especially the United States, are dealing with the Palestinian cause in general from a totally wrong approach. This is because all statements by Western officials are confined to only one aspect; that is, combating military operations carried out by some Palestinian organizations inside Isr[illegible] which, for one reason or another, are call[illegible]t operations."

The fact is that since the establishment of the Palestinian Authority [PA], U.S. and European officials have made it a practice to visit Gaza and Jericho to hold various talks that seek to extend economic help to the PA to overcome the stifling financial crisis it is facing. However, the results of these visits are confined to one aspect; that is, asking the PA to redouble efforts to spread security and prevent what they claim to be "terrorist operations" against Israeli forces. In most cases, they link the provision of aid to how successful the PA is in stopping the wave of commando operations against Israeli targets.

The question is: Are the visits to help the PA overcome the economic difficulties it is facing or to fan the fire of sedition among the various Palestinian organizations and push them into a civil war whose serious consequences are only known to God?

There is a consensus among all Palestinian officials from all political colors that there are two main reasons for the Palestinian operations. The first is the continued Israeli intransigence and procrastination in implementing the provisions of the self-rule agreement. The second is the stifling economic crisis the PA is facing and donor states' failure to fulfill their obligations to provide necessary aid to the Palestinian people so they can build their own state.

The issue is very clear. The Palestinian people who have made peace with Israel, were aspiring to establish a sovereign state in the future founded on firm political, social, security, and economic bases. However, the results they got did not achieve the minimum level of ambitions to which they aspired.

In a quick look, we see that Israel did not fulfill its promises and the donor states' promises remained ink on paper. What then should we expect from the Palestinian people, and from the PA?

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## Ekeus: U.S. Chemical Weapons Claims 'Wrong'

*JN2703214395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2050 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 27 Mar (INA)—Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission, has once again refuted the U.S. allegations that Iraq has rebuilt its capabilities regarding weapons of mass destruction.

Ekeus described the statements made by Madeleine Albright, the U.S. representative at the United Nations, in this regard as untrue, and asserted that a wrong impression resulted from these remarks.

In statement to Baghdad television, carried by the cultural channel tonight, Ekeus said: Mrs. Albright made some statements which could have given the impression that Iraq is rebuilding its capabilities in the field of chemical weapons and banned missiles. I talked to her about this issue and she stated that she did not mean it. However, it is clear that she was talking about specific installations in Iraq which were used to rebuild the banned weapons. However, this is untrue. We know these installations well and are watching them closely. We support operating these installations which produce materials used to purify water and manufacture some agricultural fertilizers. I believe that a wrong impression resulted from Albright's statement.

Asked about the Security Council's future action now that Iraq has fulfilled its commitments toward its resolutions, especially since the health situation in Iraq is deteriorating daily due to the acute shortage of food and medicine, Ekeus said: This depends on the issue of arms. He added that he and his team are very concerned about the conditions in which Iraqis are suffering.

Ekeus said: I believe we can do a lot in this regard; we can achieve as much as possible within the specified frameworks and rules.

## Stresses Closing 'Gaps'

*JN2703205995 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Technical talks between the Iraqi side, led by Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, and the UN Special Commission, led by Rolf Ekeus, concluded today.

In a special interview with an INA correspondent following the talks today, Rolf Ekeus said the following:

During the talks, the Iraqi side was very cooperative and both sides made determined efforts to overcome the difficulties we faced in the past. We have obtained a substantial amount of new information, which we will assess as soon as possible. We can say that the talks were good and made tangible progress. The UN Special Commission will do what should be done, later, in light of the new information the Iraqi side has given us.

Regarding the file on Iraqi biological weapons, Ekeus said: Work on this file took a long time, even longer than other files. The information we have obtained from the Iraqi side in this regard was very good, and we will assess it later.

He added that he will present his semi-annual report to the UN Security Council on 10 April, stressing that he will keep to the set date.

Ekeus said that the UN Special Commission has accomplished the major part of its work in Iraq, and he hoped that the percentage of accomplishment will be 99 percent or very close to it.

Concluding his interview, Ekeus informed the INA correspondent that he will not hold a news conference for Arab and foreign journalists, and that he will be satisfied with what he said to INA. Approximately two hours later, Ekeus held a special news conference for foreign journalists and television networks at the al-Rashid Hotel, where he is staying. The INA correspondent was only allowed to attend the last part of the conference because he had already obtained an exclusive statement on the talks.

INA later learned that Ekeus said the following to foreign journalists:

Our talks focused on resolving the unresolved problems in the weapons file. I will write all the information I have obtained during my talks with the Iraqi side in my report, which I will present to the UN Security Council on 10 or 11 April.

In response to a question on the biological weapons file and whether he is or is not satisfied with what has been achieved in this file, Ekeus said: Last time I said there were some gaps. After we explained to Iraq what concerns us in this regard, we defined those gaps together. Iraq responded and we discussed the matter in depth from all angles. We agreed to continue our work and to keep in touch to see to where we will go.

Ekeus added: Iraq has provided us with further information during the rounds of talks we held in Baghdad. We will convey it to the Security Council. He indicated that he is not in a position to decide to allow Iraq to export oil. He stressed that he will submit reports on specific facts to the Security Council, which will be free to make a decision on that respect. He added, however, that his final goal is to arrive at a position which would enable Iraq to demand that the ban on oil exports be lifted.

Regarding the setting up of a long-term mechanism to ensure Iraq's compliance with the UN Security Council resolutions, Ekeus told journalists that he hopes he will be able to report to the UN Security Council on 10 April, that the program is ready for operation. He added: I hope I will be able to write this. I am convinced that the mechanism is working well.

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On the nuclear file and whether this file has been closed, Ekeus told journalists that that file is part of the jurisdiction of the International Atomic Energy Agency in cooperation with the Special Commission. He added: However, we are satisfied with the current situation regarding the nuclear file.

Regarding the biological weapons file and whether or not this file has been closed, Ekeus said: We still have a great deal to do. We have serious fears, which we have explained in detail to Iraq. We agreed to work on them. We seek to have joint efforts between us as much as possible.

Regarding the report that he will submit to the Security Council, Ekeus said: It will be more detailed and clearer than what has been submitted and achieved. Some UN Security Council members asked for further details that do not describe problems as they are, but rather review the effectiveness of what has been achieved. In itself, this will be a good and new element. The report will be supported by details. Then, the final say will rest with the UN Security Council.

## U.S. 'Plan' To Oust Saddam in 6 Months Cited

*JN2703120995 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 24 Mar 95 pp 16-17*

[Report by Sa'id al-Qaysi in Paris]

[FBIS Translated Text] What is going on in Iraq? This question has suddenly surfaced in many Western and Arab countries. This time, the question coincided with signs and indications confirming the existence of an American plan to topple Saddam Husayn, within six months, through a military mutiny in the capital, battles waged by the opposition in the north and south, and popular uprisings. This will be followed by the formation of a government in exile. American and French sources said that the military mutiny took place a few days ago. However, the opposition failed to start battles on their fronts because of the Kurds' internal war and Iranian and Turkish pressure. This, consequently, foiled the mutiny. Meanwhile, Washington seems to be determined to change the Baghdad regime and the opposition is prepared to set up a joint military command. At the same time, Saddam Husayn placed the Republican Guard on a state of maximum alert. What is the truth about the military movements in Iraq and the details of the new American plan to remove Saddam before reviewing the sanctions?

Many questions have been raised in Western and Arab capitals over the past two weeks regarding the internal situation in Iraq. These questions and predictions increased with the dissemination of reports that Republican Guard units—the major deterrent force of Saddam Husayn's regime—were placed on maximum alert around Baghdad and in a number of major Iraqi cities, particularly near al-Basrah in the south and Karkuk in the north.

This information on the movements of the Republican Guard was disseminated at a time when Madeleine Albright, U.S. permanent representative at the United Nations, was touring Western and Arab capitals to achieve unanimity at the Security Council to prevent the lifting of sanctions on Iraq. Also, the tour coincided with leaked reports of a coup attempt in Baghdad. The Iraqi opposition, particularly the leaders of the Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC], leaked reports on this coup attempt without giving any details on those in charge of the attempt or its timing. Meanwhile, Washington remained silent, reaffirmed that there was conflicting information regarding the internal situation, and said that certain events took place in Iraq in February and that the U.S. Administration could not ascertain these facts.

European sources, which are in contact with the U.S. Administration, reaffirmed that Washington had asked certain Western capitals to be patient before launching any initiative at the Security Council to lift sanctions. These sources said that Washington expressed readiness to soften its stand vis-a-vis the lifting of the sanctions on Iraq. However, Washington asked for six months to get acquainted with the direction of events inside Iraq as Saddam Husayn is facing a difficult situation. Therefore, no decision should be taken that would constitute a way out for the Iraqi president.

The same European sources expressed their surprise at the American stand, stressing that, a few weeks ago, Washington was pessimistic over the situation in Iraq due to the ongoing war in Iraq's Kurdistan between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], led by Jalal Talabani, and the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] led by Mas'ud Barzani, supported by the pro-Iran Hizballah. According to the European sources, Washington had reached the conclusion that the Kurdish-Kurdish war has killed the hope of unifying the Iraqi opposition and turning the Kurdish area, which is under international protection, into a base for liberating Iraq. Even the U.S. secretary of defense was forced to announce that the vacuum, which will result from ousting Saddam Husayn, is more dangerous than his staying in power. This statement came amid information that Tehran was behind the Kurdish conflict to drag some Kurdish parties into holding coordination with the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution [SAIRI] in Iraq, led by Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim.

In this respect, French sources say that Washington has changed its position and asked its allies to wait for six months before taking any new stand on the embargo at the UN Security Council. According to the French sources, this change in the U.S. position was prompted by the arrival of striking information on military movements in Iraq, which may indicate serious consequences and changes.

The same sources confirm that there was a major mutiny among military units in the Baghdad area. This was

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followed by similar movements in the Karkuk area. The mutiny and movements were the result of Baghdad's decision to demobilize thousands of officers and soldiers because it was unable to pay their salaries for months and because of the increasing number of desertion cases. The sources confirm that Iraqi Army commanders tried to take advantage of this aggravated situation to launch a major rebellion in more than one city. Such a move, the commanders estimated, would prompt the Republican Guard units to move and would, thus, make it easier for them to stage an organized military rebellion in Baghdad and isolate it from other areas.

However, the same sources acknowledge that the scheme was foiled and that the Republican Guard forces were able to crush the rebellion as soon as it started, and no other movements were reported in the other military barracks. It seems that the rebellion was not coordinated and the military leaders who tried to lead the operation found themselves isolated. The United States felt sorry and blamed the opposition leaders for this failure. It said that the war in Kurdistan and the Iranian intervention prevented coordination between the opposition on the one hand, and the military leaders on the other. This coordination was needed and imperative to ensure the success of the operation. Washington was working on that coordination for a long time in order to bring the views of opposition elements closer together.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI has learned from informed Arab sources that the major plan was to start battles on the al-'Amarah axis in the south by the SAIRI forces and on the Irbil axis in the direction of Karkuk. Then the Army was supposed to carry out a mutiny that would coincide with a popular uprising in several Iraqi cities. This would be followed by the last step; namely, declaring a government in exile in the area, which is under international protection, in the north.

The U.S. sources said that the battle started in the north by the PUK lost its importance because Mas'ud Barzani's party did not participate in it. Meanwhile, it appeared that Tehran, which has direct relations with the Kurdish Hizballah, and which coordinated with Talabani and moved military units on the border, wanted in fact to foil the plan and tried to use it in its favor. The U.S. sources added that Tehran, whose stand conflicted with the SAIRI, prevented the SAIRI forces from moving to the south and asked its military units to keep away from the border and to move inside [Iran]. This Iranian move, whose causes are not yet known, converged with Baghdad's interests and contributed to the failure of the plan aimed at toppling Saddam Husayn.

French sources believe that the United States wants to continue its efforts to achieve reconciliation between the leaders of the opposition, far away from Iranian influence. According to Washington, the plan is still valid and should be implemented expeditiously, within six months, before the Security Council resumes its meetings to discuss the lifting of sanctions on Baghdad. French sources said that Washington will do its utmost to delay the lifting of sanctions. Therefore, it is maneuvering by showing flexibility toward the partial lifting of sanctions within the framework of Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712, which give Baghdad the right to export $1.6 billion worth of oil under UN supervision. Washington believes that if it agrees to implement these two resolutions at the present time, the discussion of lifting the sanctions entirely will be postponed because Baghdad will oppose the partial lifting, and consequently, the international sanctions will continue for the next few months.

France believes that the United States has entered a race against time because it will be difficult for it to maneuver for a long period on the pretext that Baghdad has failed to implement all Security Council resolutions, while lifting the blockade is solely contingent on Baghdad's compliance with all the paragraphs of Resolution 786. Iraq, thus far, has adhered to Paragraphs 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13. What remains is the issue of biological weapons. It is expected that this issue will be settled so that Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission in charge of monitoring [Iraq's] mass destruction weapons, can finish his semi-annual report and submit it to the Security Council. This report will be the basis according to which the Security Council will determine its position on lifting the blockade. The United States says that Ekeus will not be able to complete his inspection of biological weapons and finish his report within a 30-day grace period. Therefore, another six months are needed—a period Washington will try to use to carry out a plan for toppling the Baghdad regime.

However, Washington is apprehensive of Iran's role and of the possibility that Iran will benefit from any operation aimed at changing the Iraqi regime. Therefore, the U.S. Administration welcomed the Syrian role, which has been active recently. Damascus hosted Staff Lieutenant General Rafiq al-Samara'i, former chief of the Iraqi Military Intelligence, and discussed with him unifying the opposition's ranks. At the same time a delegation representing the Pan-Arab Action Coordination Committee, which represents the Damascus-based Iraqi opposition, visited the Kurdistan region. The delegation was comprised of Mahdi 'Ubayd, member of the Regional Command of the pro-Syria Iraqi Ba'th Party and Fadil al-Ansari, member of the Ba'th Party's National Command. The delegation met with Iraqi opposition parties and the Kurdistan Front (the UNIC) and more specifically with Mas'ud Barzani; Muhammad Bahr al-'Ulum; Major General Hasan al-Naqib; and Ahmad al-Jalabi, president of the UNIC Executive Council. The meetings centered on putting an end to the war in Kurdistan and preparing for a national reconciliation conference. Western sources said that Syria has moved to prevent Iran from polarizing the opposition. The sources added that there was no coordination between Damascus and Tehran, as some Iraqi opposition figures tried to convey to the Western circles. It was noticed that Washington welcomed the Syrian initiative

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on the premise that the Syrian role is crucial to any step taken to unify the ranks of the Iraqi opposition.

Western security reports indicate that meetings are being held to set up a joint field and military command whose task will be to carry out the plan that has basically been drawn out. This plan is based on igniting battles in the north and south coupled with sparking a popular uprising and forming a government in exile. Iraqi opposition sources confirm that Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim has been exerting remarkable efforts to help the joint field command plan succeed. The sources said that he carried guarantees that Iran will not foil this plan. In this context it should be mentioned that Tehran had dispatched a delegation to the Kurdistan region in a bid to dissipate fears regarding its role. However, this delegation failed to meet with Barzani, who has been largely indifferent to the idea of setting up a joint command and to the entire plan. Barzani believes that the U.S. position on the issue is unclear and that the U.S. Administration could be looking for new cards to put pressure on Saddam and force him to deal positively with it.

Sources close to Barzani said that any plan should receive Turkish support or else the opposition will lose its credibility on the regional level—an allusion to the danger of the Iranian influence. What attracts attention is that the Turkish stand was adopted quickly when Turkey cautioned the Kurds against provoking Iraqi troops and attempting to capture the city of Karkuk. The sources said that this showed that Ankara did not support the U.S. plan. They noted that Turkey "will in no way accept this matter which will harm Iraq's territorial integrity," especially since it fears the repercussions of any "Kurdish victories on Turkish Kurds." On the other hand, the sources added, it seems that the UNIC still insists on confirming that its goal is the liberation of all Iraqi cities from the authority of the Baghdad regime.

The question that remains is related to the ability of the Iraqi opposition to set up a joint command, penetrate the military establishment, and ignite a popular uprising. Another question that needs to be answered is: How interested is Washington in toppling Saddam and carrying out its plans to this effect within six months?

## Daily Criticizes U.S. Officials' Tour of Region

*JN2603210895 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 22 Mar 95 p 1*

[Article by Hani Wuhayyib: "The Main Point"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Even the simplest person following the U.S. Administration's statements and positions knows where the United States stands. In fact, the U.S. strategies, which have a purely selfish nature, have been openly included in the documents and stands about which the United States brags. In February 1995, the U.S. White House issued a document concerning U.S. national security. This document was divided into four parts. Waiverer Clinton wrote an introduction to it in which he stressed, among other things, the United State's power to guarantee Israel's security and to maintain what he called the flow of oil for suitable prices. These are the two major elements in the U.S. strategy, and they constitute, as the Arabs say, the main point. Waiverer Clinton did not forget to stress the need to reactivate the U.S. economy and to encourage democracy abroad. By encouraging democracy abroad, he means encouraging ethnic conflicts, fragmenting homelands under the cover of liberal democracy, and conspiring against the genuine revolutions in the Third World countries, the most prominent of which is the mighty Iraqi revolution. Waiverer Clinton and his aides did not hesitate to openly plot against the Iraqi revolution, and to flagrantly seek to maintain the blockade against the patient Iraqi people. The tours of Albright and Christopher, and later that of U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry, all fall within the framework of executing this evil scheme. The latter was not ashamed to say that the objective of his tour was to protect the Arab Gulf region from the Iraqi danger, and to stress the United State's need to use ports and airports in the region to tighten the blockade against the lofty Iraqi people. He also stressed the need to entrench the U.S. presence in the Arab Gulf region and to continue the U.S. milking of its resources. He showed enthusiasm to contain any initiative to support Iraq's call for lifting the unjust blockade. Thus, the U.S. arrogance and tyranny, and the U.S. arrogant declaration to once again colonize the Arab homeland by the toughest means have become clear. This is the main U.S. objective. However, the Arab nation will not capitulate beacuse the eternal Mother of Battles has ignited the burning log of the new Arab awakening. Still, we say that it will not pan out the way they expect it to.

## U.S. Policy, Turkish Operation Criticized

*JN2603213395 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 26 Mar 95*

[Unattributed commentary from the "Spotlight on the News" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite the complicated results of the unjust blockade, events prove every day that Iraqis are becoming more patient and more steadfast in the face of the challenges facing them. While the United States and its allies wagered on the political and economic results of the blockade, our great people confronted these results and prevented them from achieving their wicked goals.

In light of current developments, it has become clear that many things would not have taken place were it not for the flagrant U.S. interference in Iraq's domestic affairs and its insistence on plans to harm our homeland and endanger its unity and stability—plans whose goals have become known to everyone. Among these goals, for example, is the Turkish military operation in a dear part of northern Iraq. This operation constitutes a flagrant violation of Iraq's sovereignty and international law.

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This Turkish interference took place at a time when relations between Iraq and Turkey were improving to the benefit of both peoples, as evident in the visits exchanged by officials from both countries, without witnessing serious changes that could harm the sovereignty and independence of either country. Good-neighborliness, however, will remain inevitable and far from ambitions and opportunism.

There is no doubt that what is taking place in the Autonomous Region, as well as the violation of Iraq's borders by the Turkish forces, clearly exposes the nature of the warring forces and how they are carrying out a dangerous foreign plan to cause severe damage to Iraq and the Kurdish citizen, who has become the principal victim of the dangers of the absence of military and political security in the region.

The question is, therefore: Do the Americans not see that the security zone they have, as they allege, established to protect the Kurdish citizen is being used to kill that citizen, threaten his life and future, and deprive him of his basic rights? How can the region be secure while foreign forces are causing havoc in it, and if those who have filled the world with allegations that they are eager to defend the interests of the Kurds, are making no move?

## PUK Official on Turkish Operation, Fighting

*JN2703213195 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1945 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[Interview with Kusret Rasul 'Ali, PUK Political Bureau member and "prime minister of Iraqi Kurdistan," by correspondent Ahmad Birru; place and date not given; from the "Panorama" feature—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Birru] Mr. Kusret Rasul, Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] Political Bureau member and prime minister of Iraqi Kurdistan, reports from Iraqi Kurdistan say that fierce battles took place between the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] and PUK forces in Irbil today. What about these battles and are they still raging?

['Ali] Despite all good peace efforts and at a time when we are confronting the Iraqi regime's forces, the KDP forces carried out a large-scale attack on all axes in Irbil. The attack was repulsed by the PUK forces. They left dozens of corpses at the battlefield. Their losses are estimated at 300 either killed or wounded. Currently, there are no battles, but the KDP artillery shelling of civilians in the (Sharis) and Pirzin residential districts and on some areas in Irbil continues. Over 15 men, women, and children were martyed and over 30 people were wounded in this shelling.

[Birru] What about the losses within the PUK ranks?

['Ali] The PUK lost 11 martyrs and 40 wounded in these battles.

[Birru] Are there battles between the forces of the two parties in areas other than Irbil?

['Ali] No, there are no battles in any other areas except for the battles which took place in the Irbil area, that is the battles that took place this morning and last night.

[Birru] What caused this attack which you say the Barzani forces launched against your forces?

['Ali] By God, there is no justification for this attack. There are good offices and mediation efforts by all the parties, friendly countries, and by the Iraqi National Congress [INC]. But, regrettably, the brothers in the KDP insist on pursuing the fighting in Iraqi Kurdistan.

[Birru] Why?

['Ali] I have no information about their objective. We fear that there is a secret coordination, or something else between the Iraqi regime and the KDP. Otherwise, there is no justification for continuing the fighting in Iraqi Kurdistan. The PUK has said it welcomes any mediation and comprehensive peace in Iraqi Kurdistan.

[Birru] The Turkish military campaign in northern Iraq, in Iraqi Kurdistan is now in its second week and the Turkish forces are still in the area. The commander of these forces says that he believes that the Turkish forces will stay in Kurdistan for some time. What is the PUK stand on this Turkish military campaign in Iraqi Kurdistan?

['Ali] We are worried by the Turkish army's crossing into Iraqi Kurdistan. We also regret that the KDP participates in this attack on the inhabitants of Iraqi Kurdistan. As a result of the Turkish Army's violation of human rights, several women and civilians from Iraqi Kurdistan were martyred, and several villages were set on fire.

[Birru] Do you have any information on the losses sustained in this Turkish campaign on Kurdistan?

['Ali] We do not have accurate information. However, we heard that several clashes took place in some border areas with the forces of the Turkish Workers Party of Kurdistan [PKK]. No fierce battles have taken place in Iraqi Kurdistan during the Turkish military campaign against the PKK.

[Birru] Reports have said that the PKK fighters are fleeing to nearby areas in Iraqi Kurdistan, some of which are controlled by your forces. What is the position on them? Are you confronting these forces?

['Ali] There are no PKK bases in the areas controlled by the PUK. Their bases are in Turkish Kurdistan and on the border with Iraqi Kurdistan.

[Birru] Reports say the Turkish forces occupied areas in Iraqi Kurdistan up to the Syrian and Iranian borders; in other words, the areas that are under your control. Have any clashes occurred with the Turkish forces?

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['Ali] We do not have forces in the Iraqi-Turkish-Syrian triangle or in the Iraqi-Turkish-Iranian triangle. There are no clashed between our forces and the Turkish forces.

[Birru] The positions of the regional states; namely, Iraq and Iran, showed reservations in the first days of the Turkish campaign. Sometimes there was absolute silence. However, they only took positions opposed to this campaign in recent days. What is your explanation? Do you find any collusion between....

['Ali, interrupting] I believe there is Turkish coordination with the Iraqi regime to launch this campaign and bring the Turkish army into Iraqi Kurdistan. We do not have any information on the positions of other neighboring states.

[Birru] If the Turkish forces continue to stay in Iraqi Kurdistan—the commander of the Turkish campaign believes these forces will stay for some time in Kurdistan—will you confront them if they stay in your areas?

['Ali] The areas where the Turkish forces are present are not under our control. They are under the control of the KDP which is joining the Turkish army in this campaign.

[Birru] Do you have any confirmation or evidence regarding the participation of the KDP forces....

['Ali, interrupting] The pictures shown on Turkish television and before the cameras, as well as our accurate information indicate that the people in the area of (Badinamindog) and Zakho visit Irbil and see the KDP forces joining the Turkish army in purging the area as part of the campaign against the PKK.

[Birru] The international positions on the Turkish campaign implicitly support it. A few states denounced this campaign. How do you view this international situation?

['Ali] We demand the international community, as well as the charitable and human rights organizations to halt this campaign, especially since there are human rights violations in that area. We also demand the Turkish Government to withdraw its forces to the border because we respect good-neighborliness with Turkey.

[Birru] Regarding the recent movements by the Iraqi opposition against the [Iraqi] regime, as well as mobilizing this regime's forces toward the Karkuk area and the movement of PUK forces to the outside of Irbil to confront the Iraqi regular forces, what is the current situation within this framework?

['Ali] The Iraqi army carried out movements along the contact lines in Kurdistan. We are defending Kurdistan with the participation of the INC and other parties such as the Kurdistan Front and some other parties. Battles erupted between the forces of the INC, PUK, the Communist Party, the Toilers Party, the PKK, and the Democratic Socialist Party on the one hand and the Iraqi army on the other in Irbil, Karkuk, and other areas.

[Birru] What is the situation now?

['Ali] There are no clashes now. However, there is tension on the axes of Chamchamal, Kifri, Kalar, and Irbil. The Iraqi army is shelling some villages in Irbil. It is also shelling Chamchamal and Kifri with heavy artillery and various weapons.

[Birru] Kusret Rasul, thank you.

## Barzani Berated for 'Collusion' With Turkish Army

*NC2403210995 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1525 GMT 24 Mar 95*

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Barzani leadership is not content with its humiliating collusion with the 'Aflaqite leadership in Baghdad in order to strike at and foil any movement by the Iraqi opposition aimed at saving the Iraqi people from the dictatorial regime. It also persists in serving as an agent of all parties that intend to harm the Kurdish national movement in particular and the Iraqi national movement in general. We believe that it is necessary to define the term agent: Being an agent means that a political party or a certain personality work against its own people in the interests of a foreign interest that seeks to harm his people and homeland. This term just fits the Barzani leadership which has tried to be an agent for various parties. In the past, this leadership served as a loyal agent of the shah of Iran, and these days it has turned into an agent of the Baghdad regime. It is planning, coordinating, and colluding with this regime to undermine the Iraqi opposition and people, who are bracing to pounce on the dictatorial bastions.

As the Iraqi and Kurdish opposition forces unify their efforts and resources to strike at the establishments of the repressive authorities in Baghdad, the Barzani leadership sheds tears for the dictatorship and claims through its offices abroad that the Baghdad regime does not intend to harm Kurdistan and so there is no reason to stand up to it. In its traitorous stances, the Barzani leadership is trying to play down the importance of the legitimate defense of the Kurdish people's gains and of confronting the Iraqi regime to promote its downfall.

As the Turkish Army launched its offensive against the liberated territory of Kurdistan, the Barzani leadership rushed to cooperate with the Turkish forces. Here, we must recall the Silopi meeting between Barzani and a junior Turkish army officer early this month. Barzani, who does not listen to reason and refused a request for a meeting by more than 17 Kurdish parties and many national and religious personalities, hastened to meet with a Turkish Army officer in Silopi to coordinate and prepare the ground for the entry of Turkish forces into Kurdistan. Now, as the Turkish Army continues its military operations inside Iraqi Kurdistan, the Barzani gunmen advance in front of these forces to get control of the villages and towns of the beloved (Bahdinan) region,

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which has suffered bitter ordeals at the hands of the gunmen of the Barzani leadership. The Barzani leadership can no longer deny this. The treason of this leadership is evident from the following facts:

1. Sources close to Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller stress that the Turkish military intervention was launched to change the balance of forces which had been tipped by Jalal Talabani's forces.

2. A spokesman of the Turkish general command expressed Ankara's satisfaction with the positive response to the Turkish forces of the [Kurdistan Democratic] Party, led by Mas'ud Barzani.

3. General Hasan Kundakci, commander of the Turkish military operation in Iraqi Kurdistan, said that he had recently met with Mas'ud Barzani and that the latter agreed to place all his party's resources at the service of the Turkish Army.

4. Mas'ud Barzani, in an official statement, said that the condemnation released by his party's office in Washington was released without the knowledge of his leadership, and he apologized to the Turkish Government for it.

5. Correspondents of international radios, such as Husni Mahri and (Clare Quinton) of the BBC and (Gary Thomas) of the Voice of America, have stressed in their reports that the Barzani leadership has cooperated with the Turkish Army. Not to mention the world press, which confirms this cooperation. These facts prove the Barzani leadership's treason and its constant readiness to destroy any national or patriotic achievement or gain. That party is conspiring against the Kurdish and Iraqi people and poses a threat to security and stability in the region.

Thus, the agent Barzani leadership is not concerned with the interests of the people and the homeland and is ready to trade everything in return for continued plundering of the resources of Kurdistan. This leadership is seeking to destroy Kurdistan's democratic experiment, the success of which constitutes a success for the democratic process in Iraq. The bitter situation brought about by the Barzani leadership requires the Iraqi people and opposition to expose their traitorous stances and emphasize that this leadership is only interested in its own narrow interests.

## Barzani Radio Reports Victories Over Talabani Forces

### Eighty Talabani Deaths

*JN2703212195 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1715 GMT 27 Mar 95*

["Text" of communique by the Kurdistan Democratic Party's Military Bureau on 27 March]

[FBIS Translated Text] Honest masses of Kurdistan: As you have heard, the mercenary Jalali [Jalal Talabani] forces have been launching concentrated attacks on Banjwin and the foot of Mount Suren over the past few days. The heroes of the field command of the peshmerga of Kurdistan wage a defensive war and confront these attacks with high morale and complete faith in their just cause.

To teach them another lesson that will show them their real size and to have them realize that they cannot stay in Irbil for long, the hero peshmerga of the party [Kurdistan Democratic Party] and Barzani decided to deal them a decisive blow.

At 0430 on 27 March, our forces attacked the dens of the Jalali mercenaries on the axes of Kani Qirjalah, Pirzin, (Shaways) (Hasarak), (Sebardan) and the positions overlooking the former Peshmerga ministry, and those overlooking Jalal Talabani's secretariat. In battles that lasted several hours, the lions of the party and Barzani dealt decisive blows to the Jalali dens and positions, particularly those overlooking the Peshmerga ministry and Jalal Talabani's secretariat, killing or wounding all their occupants while others fled.

The Jalali mercenaries sustained the following losses:

1. More than 80 armed Jalali jackasses were killed, including (Faqa Makhmuri) the leader of the gangs of thieves; (Saq Sarani) village chief of 'Aqrah and member of the active commission of the seventh Jalali branch; and (Kawa), commander of the Jalali special brigade.

2. More than 150 Jalali jackasses were wounded.

3. 10 Jalali jackasses were taken prisoner.

Our hero peshmerga captured the following: Three Dushka machine guns, three cars, two 82-mm howitzer mortars, three 60-mm howitzer mortars, six PKC's, four RPG's, and more than 40 Kalashnikov's.

While our hero peshmerga was dealing its blow, the Jalali jackasses in Irbil began to clear out the hospitals to enable them to receive as many wounded as possible.

Blessed be your hands, O heroes of the party and Barzani's lions. Teach them a lesson so that they regain their senses. We greet your heroic steadfastness. Blessed be your hands. Let them know that this is a new lesson to be added to previous lessons lest they learn from it and submit to justice and the will of the people, and admit the disastrous failure of their coup. This is another blow and lesson. These blows will continue until they return to the sound path.

### 'Futile' Attack Thwarted

*JN2703203495 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1715 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Banjwin axis—Once again, the Jalali [Jalal Talabani] jackasses, on the evening of 26

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March, began to mobilize their remnants and attacked the positions of the steadfast forces of the Karkuk-al-Sulaymaniyah heroes from the axis of the village of (Halalawah).

However, and exactly as before, they were confronted by the lions of the [Kurdistan Democratic] Party and Barzani thwarted their futile attack and chased them, causing them to leave behind eight bodies. Two of the dead were identified as 'Uthman Ahmad and (Alan Muhammad Majid). The collapsing remnants also left behind three vehicles, including a private car for criminal 'Umar Gharib.

By the afternoon of 27 March, our heroic peshmerga, the heroes of Karkuk-al-Sulaymaniyah had thwarted successive attacks launched by the Jalal [Talabani] jackasses at the foot of Mount Suren. The heroic deeds of Kurdistan's peshmerga continue to defeat the traitorous mercenaries. Their troops left behind tens of dead in the area.

## Country Stable Despite 'Abortive Sabotage'

*JN2503174295 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 13 Mar 95 p 1*

[Article by 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin: "Just a Simple Clash"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The recent abortive sabotage attempts and the false propaganda claims are all aimed at creating the general impression that Iraq is not a stable country and that the aggression, and the embargo that came later, have begun to wear out the Iraqi state. However, it was not long before the enemies themselves admitted that what they term "the Iraqi regime" or "Saddam's regime" is sometimes stronger, more solid, and more viable and stable than all other regimes. What they term "the regime" or "the regime's power" is, in our belief, "God's will", which is with us because we pursue the path of guidance and faith. It is also the power of the revolution which stems from the power of the people and the competence of the leadership.

So, what has happened in the last few days? A handful of individuals have infiltrated from a state which should have been defending its own existence in the face of the serious challenges and public upheaval surrounding it. It should have also learned the lessons of previous attempts and a war that lasted for eight years. But this is useless in the case of a state whose philosophy is based on divorcing logic. The fate of the infiltrators, whose masters thought would turn the world upside down, was the same as that of their predecessors; namely, they knocked their heads on the solid Iraqi wall to the point of suicide.

The other issue is that Jalal Talabani, the mercenary agent of all big and small states, wanted to say to his masters of all schools and inclinations that he and no one else, such as Mas'ud Barzani, can be relied on to fight Iraq. He also wanted to say to the agents: Look how Mas'ud Barzani is fighting me while I am busy fighting the Iraqi state. Moreover, Talabani wanted to say that he deserved the support of all agents. This was the aim of the abortive clash with one of our units. The result was that Talabani proved his failure, his abortive attempts, and his stupid mentality. He left his dead behind in a battle which, to our forces, was simply a mere clash.

As for the situation in the south, groups of foreign journalists and correspondents of television networks and news agencies are touring the region to see with their own eyes how stable Iraq is. Show me one state in the whole world where a bomb does not go off or a clash does not take place with the security forces. Yet, Iraq, after an aggression by 28 armies and five years of blockade, is stronger and more stable, because Iraq the people and Iraq the state are one thing, and therein lies the secret of power, capability, and stability.

## Tribes Pledge Loyalty in Pro-Saddam Rallies

*JN2503175195 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 13 Mar 95 p 4*

[FBIS Translated Text] The District of al-Shamiyah, al-Qadisiyah Governorate, has witnessed a massive public rally of tribal and clan chiefs, aldermen, and crowds of citizens. During this rally, the masses renewed their full allegiance and absolute loyalty to leader President Saddam Husayn. This rally was attended by comrade Kamil Yasin Rashid, member of the Iraqi Regional Command and official in charge of party organizations in the Governorates of al-Qadisiyah and al-Muthanna; al-Qadisiyah Governor Tariq Fayzi al- Hazza'; and the secretary and members of al-Qadisiyah party branch leaders. The masses expressed their full readiness to make any sacrifices in defense of great Iraq's honor and dignity.

The tribes of al-Jubur, al-'Izzah, Al-Bu-'Ujayl, Jumaylah, Shammar, Al-Bu-Hayazi', and Al-Bu-'Ali have renewed their pledge to leader struggler President Saddam Husayn to remain loyal soldiers. A rally in the capital of Salah al-Din Governorate was attended by comrade Muhammad Yunus al-Ahmad, member of the Iraqi Regional Command and official in charge of party organizations in the Governorates of Salah al-Din and al-Anbar. The tribes affirmed their full readiness to make any sacrifice for the sake of defending Iraq's pure soil.

Tribal and clan chiefs and aldermen in the District of Khanaqin, Diyala Governorate, have renewed their pledge to leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him, that they remain loyal soldiers in defense of Iraq and its national sovereignty. During a rally attended by Muzhir Matni 'Awwad, member of the Iraqi Regional Command and official in charge of party organizations in Diyala Governorate and Diyala Governor Tu'mah Du'ayyif, the tribal chiefs pledged they will devote all their energies and efforts to increasing production and foiling the blockade crime. They pledged that they stand one rank behind the flag of Allahu Akbar carried by leader President Saddam Husayn.

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Tribal chiefs and professional and popular organizations in Wasit Governorate have expressed their pride in the unique leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn and affirmed their readiness to make any precious sacrifice for the sake of great Iraq's honor and dignity. During a rally in al-Kut, the participants denounced imperialist and Zionist plans to prolong the blockade crime. The rally was attended by comrade 'Aziz Salih al-Numan, member of the Iraqi Regional Command and official in charge of party organizations in Wasit Governorate; Wasit Governor Mahmud Shakir Shahin; and the secretary and members of Wasit party branch leadership.

The District of al-Madinah, al-Basrah Govenorate, has witnessed a massive rally of inhabitants from the districts and subdistricts in which they affirmed their absolute loyalty to leader President Saddam Husayn and their full readiness to defend the homeland and protect its security and sovereignty. During a rally attended by comrade Muhammad Zimam 'Abd-al-Razzaq, member of the Iraqi Regional Command and official in charge of party organizations in the Governorates of al-Basrah and Dhi Qar, the participants affirmed, as they waved Saddam's photos, carried Iraqi flags and cheered and sang, that all the plots will not prevent our people from continuing their steadfastness until the achievement of the crossing.

### Clergymen: Postponing Iraqi Pilgrimage Permissible

*JN2403185795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1719 GMT 24 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 24 Apr (INA)—Iraq's ulema have issued an Islamic legal appeal in which they sanctioned the possibility of postponing pilgrimage this year by Iraqi pilgrims because of the circumstances of the unjust blockade imposed on our steadfast country.

They stressed that what will be spent on pilgrimage should be spent on the poor and the needy in this country, and that God's reward for good deeds will be manifold, depending on each individual's intention.

Following is the text of appeal and the name of the ulema signing it:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

A legal appeal issued by Iraq's ulema: [passage omitted]

God be praised. Peace and blessings be upon Muhammad, the messenger of God, and his family and companions. An elite of honorable men of religion representing Iraq's ulema have met to study the situation of the Iraqis' pilgrimage this year under the hard circumstances suffered by the Iraqi people because of the unjust food and medical embargo imposed by the infidels and their supporters on this peaceful, Muslim country. The ulema have been acquainted with the economic briefing by 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, in which he explained that the travel of pilgrims this year will lead to an excessive rise in the value of foreign currency, thus leading to a rise in the prices of necessary foodstuffs.

Islamic law determines that warding off causes of evil or corruption is given precedence over bringing benefits. If it is proved that spending foreign currency on pilgrimage this year will lead to famine and corruption among citizens, and probably deviations with evil consequences, then the ulema believe that pilgrimage can be postponed this year, especially since many clerics are of the view that pilgrimage is a postponable duty that should be performed by able people. They are also of the view that what is to be spent on pilgrimage should be spent on the poor and the needy in this country, and that the credit arising from a pious deed will be doubled, depending on each individual's intention.

Prophet Muhammad says "Acts are judged by intentions." Based on this, we beseech God to generously reward on the day of judgment those who give charity with good intentions and with honesty toward almighty God. [passage omitted]

### Minister Inaugurates al-Anbar Governorate Bridge

*JN2503174695 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 14 Mar 95 p 4*

[Article by Salah al-Salman]

[FBIS Translated Text] Housing and Construction Minister Mahmud Dhiyab al-Ahmad yesterday inaugurated the iron bridge in the town of Hit, al-Anbar Governorate. The bridge, which is 250 meters long and with two lanes for vehicles with up to 60 tonnes of weight, cost 16 million dinars to build. The inauguration ceremony was attended by al-Anbar Governor 'Awwad Hamad al-Bandar.

### Editorial Hails Kurdish Autonomy Anniversary

*JN2303175995 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 10 Mar 95 pp 1, 7*

[Editorial: "A Historic National Achievement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Once again, the anniversary of the historic 11 March declaration and the autonomy law takes place while our people in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region continue to suffer from the acts of murder, domination, chaos, and sabotage they are experiencing under the yoke of an extremely anomalous political situation, which is manifested by a lack of security and stability and continuous fighting between warring Kurdish factions.

If the 11 March 1970 declaration laid down a sound political and principled basis for a democratic and peaceful solution of the Kurdish question in Iraq, and is the first political document of its kind in the region to guarantee the legitimate national rights of our Kurdish people through autonomy within the unity of Iraqi soil,

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the autonomy law of 1974 is also a historic national achievement which embodies the will of our people, both Arabs and Kurds, to maintain their national unity. This achievement has led to the creation of legislative and executive institutions and organizations through which our Kurdish people exercise their legitimate rights and express their national identity as an indivisible part of the great Iraqi people.

Through their criminal 30-state aggression which they pursued with such rancor, meanness, and malice, the covetous imperialist and Zionist forces aimed not only at the Iraqi people's achievements and landmarks of awakening and progress, but also at the autonomy achievement. In fact, they are still targeting it under the false humanitarian cover and feeble excuse of creating "security zones" and "providing stability" for the Kurds in Iraq! But what has happened and is happening now is that our Kurdish people have not known rest, security, or safety during the past four years. Not only that, the imperialist and foreign forces have also tried and are still trying hard to turn the autonomous region into a springboard for sabotaging and plotting against Iraq and distorting its position for the sake of prolonging the unfair blockade imposed on it.

If the experiences of our Kurdish people have clearly shown to them, before anyone else, that resorting to the foreigner and his support is a losing bet and an abortive and destructive option, the path of autonomy and national fraternization, away from the interferences of foreign forces and their mean conspiratorial plans, is the only path that leads to the aspirations of our Kurdish people, guarantees their legitimate rights, and preserves their security and dignity. No doubt, our Kurdish people, who have suffered long enough from their bitter and costly experiences during the past four years, now fully understand, and in fact firmly believe, that their legitimate national and humanitarian rights and aspirations cannot be achieved under the spearheads of foreign forces, whether they are regional or international, but within a single unified, strong, and prosperous Iraq.

Therefore, despite all that has happened and is happening in our beloved north, our wise political leadership, which believes in the unity of the Iraqi people and their national territorial integrity, and which has dealt with the Kurdish issue with maturity, broad mindedness, and farsightedness, has taken the initiative of calling the warring Kurdish factions to a serious and responsible national dialogue which would lead to not only developing and improving on the autonomy experiment, but also entrenching national unity and foiling the wagers and mean plans of the enemies and all attempts to undermine Iraq, which has existed for 6,000 years, still exists, and will continue to be one people, one hand, and one conscience despite the means and tools which are being used by the enemies.

Greetings to the creator and engineer of autonomy the historical leader Saddam Husayn.

## Jordanian Business Delegation Promotes Trade

### Trade Minister Receives Team

*JN2203160395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1018 GMT 22 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 22 Mar (INA)—Muhammad Mahdi Salih, minister of trade, today received Haydar Murad, head of the Jordanian Chamber of Commerce, and the delegation accompanying him.

The two sides discussed ways to promote trade and economic relations between the two fraternal countries.

The chairman of the Iraqi Union of Chambers of Commerce attended the meeting.

### Trade Union Official Holds Talks

*JN2303124395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1126 GMT 23 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 23 Mar (INA)—'Adnan Yusuf al-Qudsi, head of the Iraqi Industries Federation, today met with a delegation of Jordanian businessmen led by Haydar Murad, head of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce Federation.

During the meeting, they discussed ways to promote trade and industrial cooperation and the possibility of working out a mechanism for joint coordination and action in a way that will serve the trade and economic sectors in both fraternal countries.

Al-Qudsi noted appreciation for the position of the Jordanian brothers, which expresses fraternal solidarity in confronting the economic blockade imposed on Iraq.

### Investors Invited to Amman Economic Summit

*JN2503133395 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0950 GMT 25 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 25 Mar (PETRA)—The talks Jordanian businessmen have held with their Iraqi counterparts dealt with a number of issues that entrench joint cooperation and action in various economic, commercial, and financial fields. The talks resulted in the signing of a commercial cooperation agreement between the two countries.

Haydar 'Isa Murad, head of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce Federation, who led the delegation comprised of 36 businessmen and representatives of companies and heads of Jordanian chambers of commerce, told the Jordanian News Agency that discussions with the Iraqi businessmen dealt with Amman international economic summit that will be held in Jordan late next October, in which businessmen, economists, and investors from all over the world, from both the public and private sectors, will participate. He said the Jordanian delegation invited the Iraqi investors to participate in the Amman summit through the Iraqi Union of Chambers of Commerce.

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He added that the Jordanian delegation explained the Jordanian laws encouraging investors. [passage omitted]

He said a trade agreement was signed stipulating that the two sides work toward enhancing economic relations and developing trade exchange, and for fostering acquaintances and contacts between businessmen and trade establishments in the two countries. The agreement also calls for extending facilities in these fields, and exchanging information on foreign economy and trade and the legislation governing economic and commercial activities. It also calls for exchanging leaflets and publications that help open additional potential for increasing trade exchange and broadening spheres of economic cooperation between the establishments and companies in the two fraternal countries. It also calls for the exchange of visits and trade missions to explore the possibilities of developing trade exchanges and economic links and to participate in conferences, seminars, and national and international fairs that are held in both countries, and providing these fairs with the necessary facilities.

The agreement also calls for encouraging joint ventures and facilitating the movement of the elements of productions, such as individuals, funds, commodities, and means of transportation between the two countries in accordance with the effective laws. The agreement also calls for the exchange of expertise and training between the executive organs of the two unions and the chambers in both countries.

The two sides agreed to hold periodic meetings held alternately in the two countries to discuss and review the implementation of the articles of the agreement and the appropriate ways and means of implementing them. [passage omitted]

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### Rabin Offensive Said Based on Panel's Suggestions

*TA2703130795 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Mar 95 pp 1, 19*

[Report by Nehama Dowek]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rabin's sharp attack on the Likud and Binyamin Netanyahu was preplanned.

It has been learned that a team of experts acting along side Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili has submitted to the prime minister a recommendation for a strategic plan aimed at reconquering public opinion, thus ending the trend of deterioration in Rabin's and Labor's standing and a rise in Netanyahu's and the right wing's position.

Three weeks ago Zvili met Rabin and submitted to him the main recommendations of the team, advising him to adopt them and act on their basis. The recommendations: "To push Meretz to the left; to attack the right wing and its positions, thus depicting Labor and Rabin as the political center."

Rabin has apparently decided to adopt the recommendations, as his recent statements indicate. Yesterday Zvili confirmed that he had presented the team's recommendations to Rabin at length. "Judging by the developments on the ground, I conclude that Rabin has decided to adopt our recommendations," Zvili said.

The team of experts was divided into three working groups who discussed three issues: a group on political strategy for the 1996 elections, headed by Hayim Asa; an economic strategy group headed by Dr. Ilan Ma'oz—who recommended decreasing the tax burden; and a political group headed by Nimrod Novik, who recommended accelerating the political process.

The working groups had submitted their recommendations to Zvili approximately one month ago. The meeting was attended by Dr. Ron Pundaq; Dr. Ya'ir Hirschfeld; Professor Gid'on Doron (of the Tel Aviv University Political Science Department); Labor spokesman Yoram Dori; Shim'on Tamir, head of Labor's information department; Professor Yosef Ginat of Haifa University; reserve Major General Avigdor Ben-Gal; reserve Major General Menahem 'Eynan; Professor Sha'ul Bar-Lev; and Professor Ehud Sprinzak, among others.

Following are some of the recommendations of the strategic team: "Separating from Meretz and emphasizing a different ideology than Meretz's both in the political and social spheres.... This separation from Meretz is aimed at renewing Labor's image as belonging to the center of the political map while presenting the peace process as emanating from the center rather than the left wing. This can only be done if Meretz is pushed to the left wing of the political arena. After this is done, the Likud should be pushed to the right wing, and its political and economic positions should be attacked. All this should be implemented as early as possible by means of a gradual and controlled process, with results in the polls being evident by September 1995."

The strategic team's recommendations add: "Improving Rabin's image is a supreme objective, because with a resuscitated Rabin heading Labor in 1996 it will be possible to contest the two to three seats that the left bloc has lost to the right."

The basic assumptions underlying these recommendations are that "the right, as a bloc, can defeat the left and that in direct elections for prime minister none of the candidates has a clear advantage. The proliferation of right- and left-wing candidates will necessitate a second round. If the first assumption is correct, then the chances of the left's candidate are poor, and this is why the recommendations must be implemented.... The aim of this campaign is to reclaim seats from the right."

Rabin's statements over the last few days, his attack on Yosi Sarid's remarks in favor of the separation and a Palestinian state, and his sharp attack on Likud Chairman Netanyahu and accusing the Likud of collaborating with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], as well as the economic steps such as decreasing the tax burden—all this indicates that Rabin has indeed decided to adopt the recommendations and act in their spirit.

### Rabin Denies Reports

*TA2703160295 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[Report by party affairs correspondent Sefi Hendler]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yitzhaq Rabin arrived in an upbeat mood at a meeting of the Labor Knesset faction today. It would seem that recent events have done him good. Rabin did not talk about the verbal exchanges between himself and Netanyahu, but when somebody mentioned the media in passing he made the following statement:

[Begin Rabin recording] I saw a banner headline in a midday paper today saying that a team of experts had advised Rabin what to say. There was no team, there were no experts. It is all nonsense, but that is what was written in the paper. [end recording]

So, was there a team of experts or not? Labor officials say there was a team that reported to Secretary Nisim Zvili and that in his meetings with Rabin, Zvili told him about its recommendations. However, the prime minister emphasized, he did not direct any team himself. As everybody knows, Rabin mainly consults himself.

His denial notwithstanding, the prime minister did not retreat from his assertive line against the Likud. At the end of the faction meeting, the prime minister once again lashed out at the Likud, accusing it of going wild.

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[Begin Rabin recording] Perhaps you should examine the Likud's pronouncements against the government after every terrorist attack. Perhaps you should check what the Likud's elected officials have said about the government, the prime minister, and cabinet ministers. Who started the verbal onslaught? It would seem that in the face of such harsh pronouncements there is no alternative but to present the truth as it is. [end recording]

Apparently, the battle has only just begun.

### Attacks on Likud Tied to Election

*TA2603160095 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Mar 95 p 5*

[Report by Nehama Dowek]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources in the Labor Party yesterday concluded that Yitzhaq Rabin intends to announce shortly his intention to head Labor in the upcoming elections. The assessment was voiced against the background of Rabin's sharp attacks on the Likud and its leader, Binyamin Netanyahu, over the last few days.

Senior Labor sources believe the prime minister feels that in the wake of recent political moves and an improvement in the government's image in the economic sphere, he can launch a move that will win him Labor's leadership. As will be recalled, during last Thursday's Labor Central Committee meeting, Rabin fingered the Likud as the party responsible for creating the conditions that allowed terrorism to develop by establishing minuscule settlements in the midst of dense Arab populations.

Some Labor sources believe that Rabin expressed himself too sharply and that he should have chosen his words more carefully. A senior Labor source said: "There is a difference between saying that the Likud statements in support of halting the peace process after every terror attack strengthen Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and stating that the Likud is collaborating with Hamas." Others said, off the record, that Rabin's remarks could harm his image.

Environment Minister Yosi Sarid yesterday assessed that the launch of the elections campaign is still far off. "There will be so many opening shots that this one will look like a midterm shot," he said. Regarding Rabin's criticism of the Likud, Sarid said: "If the political elements were less gluttonous, the terrorists' motivation to carry out attacks would have decreased."

Yesterday, Histadrut Chairman Hayim Ramon justified Rabin's attack on the Likud: "Rabin presented the alternatives between the Likud and Labor. Since the thrust of the Likud's criticism of Labor is directed on the terrorism front, I believe Rabin correctly explained that the Likud policy is to create a Bosnia-like situation, a total symbiosis between Israel and the Palestinians. The prime minister is depicting the profound ideological difference between the two parties. This is undoubtedly a struggle over public opinion, and Rabin is striking back. People are forgetting that instead of separation and coexistence, the Likud is proposing mutual death between the two nations."

### Criticism Said Aimed at Netanyahu

*TA2603172495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 26 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Labor leaders Rabin and Peres today reacted to Likud Chairman Netanyahu's criticism. Rabin said his criticism was mainly directed against Netanyahu's personal behavior and the wild statements he issues after terror attacks. Rabin said Netanyahu should do some thinking and worry about his own mind rather than that of other people. Mr. Rabin spoke in Jerusalem after an awards ceremony for industrialists.

Referring to the poll published this morning, the prime minister said it was conducted after the Bet Lid attack and, therefore, its results are not surprising. [passage omitted]

### Netanyahu Says Rabin Fighting Likud, Not 'Terrorists'

*TA2503144095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 25 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In response to Prime Minister Rabin's remarks on Israel Television, Likud opposition leader Binyamin Netanyahu said Rabin has apparently lost his senses. Instead of attacking terrorists, the prime minister was venting his anger on the opposition, and rather than adopting an aggressive policy against terrorism, Rabin was carrying out a policy of concessions to the Palestinians.

### Ready To Discuss Unity Government

*TA2603112695 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Mar 95 p A3*

[ITIM report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said on Friday [24 March] that, if asked, he would agree to meet with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to examine the possibility of establishing a national unity government. "If he invites me, of course I will come," Netanyahu said. "I am not boycotting the prime minister, and I am certainly not adopting Rabin's policy of inciting one sector of the public against the other."

The Likud chairman stressed that as long as the Rabin government talked about establishing a Palestinian state, the formation of a unity government was an impossibility.

"Instead of the prime minister taking steps to prevent the stockpiling of arms in the Gaza Strip and instead of letting the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] take charge of security," Netanyahu said, "Rabin continues to count on

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'Arafat and maintain contacts with him, reportedly offering him Janin and the hills overlooking Kfar Saba. What do they think? Do they believe that they will erect a fence, put the PLO and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] behind it, and thus give Israel security? We certainly cannot share a unified policy about that." Netanyahu added: "If Rabin starts fighting terrorism, he will get all our support without any demands for portfolios." [passage omitted]

### Sarid Explains Views on Palestinian State

*TA2503143495 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Mar 95*

[Interview with Environment Minister Yosi Sarid by Yaron London in the studio—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [London] Last week, Minister Yosi Sarid said that the separation line would demarcate the borders between Israel and the future Palestinian state. This week, after the fatal terrorist attack in Hebron, Sarid called for the evacuation of the Jewish settlers. Yosi Sarid is here in our studio. Good evening, Mr. Sarid.

[Sarid] Good evening, Mr. London.

[London] When you said last week that the planned separation fence marked out the borders of the Palestinian state, you were merely stating your party's long-standing position. But why now?

[Sarid] I think that sometimes one has to refocus the light on one's positions and project them clearly onto a nearby target. One can attempt to illuminate a distant target, but everyone will have long despaired before we get anywhere. I think that the very fact that soon, in several months, a Palestinian state or at least a state in utero, in inception, will actually take form in the occupied territories, gives a positive impetus both to the negotiations and to the negotiators themselves. It is manifestly clear that the borders we are currently discussing—in other words, the separation line—constitute security lines; I do not know anyone who can feign innocence and pretend that this security line is without political significance. After all, what will happen when we discuss the third stage of the permanent arrangement in the territories? Will we be given back territory from the second stage? I assume that this will be a security line with clear-cut political significance.

[London] The very week that Qiryat Arba' was mourning its dead, of all times, you affirmed the need to evacuate the site. This may be a legitimate position from various aspects. Yet, as someone who, in recent years, has attempted to portray himself as a statesman and dispel the hostility felt toward you by many sectors of the population who considered you a real fiend, was it wise to voice these sentiments at this particular time?

[Sarid] Look, first of all, I believe in speaking the truth even at difficult times. Otherwise, what can we say? Will we say things we do not think or believe in? By doing that, we would be wrongly misleading people. Second, things are much more simple than that. Life is occasionally less complicated than we tend to believe. I heard a statement by someone I very much respect and like, Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur, who made some very strange remarks. He said that Israel will make sure that the Jewish settlement remains in Hebron even after the permanent arrangement. Gur presented this as the government's position. I am not familiar with any such government position; I vehemently oppose it and consider it very dangerous. I was in Binyamina when I heard about this, and I can honestly assure you that I did not drive to Binyamina to talk about Hebron. Some correspondents at the scene asked me what I thought about Gur's declaration, however, and I did not think I should say something I do not believe in, even on what was undoubtedly a very difficult day.

[London] Even if many top thinkers believe that the political process will eventually lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state within certain limitations, what point could a tough negotiator see in stating this in the midst of the negotiations?

[Sarid] First of all, I would like to tell you something that I personally found amazing. This morning, I saw a poll by Mina Tzemah according to which 75 percent of the Israeli public clearly realizes, by their own acknowledgment, that the negotiations are definitely leading to a Palestinian state.

[London] So what?

[Sarid] So, first of all, you can see that no one will get terribly excited, the surprise will not be that great, and nobody will be in a state of shock. You can say that this is what they know is coming but also fear. In that case, let me quote another figure from the same poll, according to which 64 percent of the public believes that the negotiations should be pursued. If they are so frightened, why do they want to continue negotiations that, in their own opinion, are leading to a Palestinian state?

[London] Because Rabin's government has forced an irreversible process on them. Any attempt to backtrack now would exact too heavy a price. That is one possibility.

[Sarid] True, but there is also another possibility. That in this case, as on many other occasions, Israeli public opinion is ahead of the leadership. This speaks well of public opinion but says something bad about the leadership. Because sometimes our leadership, instead of leading the people, allows itself to be led, and instead of driving the car, it hides in the trunk. You know what happens to a driver who hides in the trunk. A Palestinian state is the preferred solution. This is not something that is being forced on us. It is not as though we are giving the Palestinians a state because they want it. To the best of my analytical ability—and I believe that most of the Israeli public sees things the same way—it is the best of

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all the alternatives we have, primarily because none of the other options are viable; they are really only pipe dreams.

[London] If you are prepared to make such a generous concession and reveal your cards before the negotiations on the Palestinian state even begin, why is Giv'at Ze'ev not part of your Israeli state while Jerusalem and Ramat Eshkol are?

[Sarid] Who told you that Giv'at Ze'ev is not included in my map of Israel? I have often stated that, in my opinion, the final map should include two large blocs of Jewish settlements that will include approximately 10 percent of the occupied territories.

[London] That only strengthens rather than invalidates my question. If that is the case, why not return to the 1967 borders? Because some daring souls volunteered to become an expeditionary force and turned the Jewish settlement enterprise in Judaea and Samaria into a fait accompli?

[Sarid] Look, you are talking to someone who opposed all settlements everywhere and at all times. I really feel uncomfortable in this respect, but I am not blind. I am not a blind man in a chimney. I live here and have followed developments over the past 27 years. Some of my best friends thought that the entire situation as a whole was irreversible. Incidentally, they were intelligent people who are familiar with the state of things. The situation as a whole is reversible. We are turning things around and creating a new reality....

[London, interrupting] But you cannot change everything.

[Sarid] One cannot effect a 100-percent change. I am not a dreamer, and I do my best to remain realistic and keep both feet on the ground. There is apparently no choice but to retain control over 10 percent of the territory. Perhaps we will find some way to compensate the Palestinians, who will need many things like a corridor for a port, a corridor to Gaza, and this is how the negotiations will eventually be concluded.

[London] Thank you very much, Minister Sarid.

## Peres Says 'Several' Settlements Must Evacuate

*MS2703134895 London THE SUNDAY TIMES in English 26 Mar 95 p 16*

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Marie Colvin in Jerusalem; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] For the first time, Shim'on Peres, the Israeli foreign minister, has said that "several" of the Jewish settlements in Gaza and the West Bank will have to be removed as Israeli authority in the territories is replaced by Palestinian rule.

Peres's comments, in an interview with THE SUNDAY TIMES, are certain to spark furious protests from the opposition Likud and the settlers themselves, who already claim that they were sold out by the Oslo agreement which handed over Gaza and the West Bank to a Palestinian national authority headed by Yasir 'Arafat.

So far, Israel has withdrawn only from Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho. Netzarim, a Jewish enclave in the heart of densely populated Gaza, is one of the settlements which will have to be relocated, Peres said. It has been the target of attacks from Palestinians angry that land in the midst of their autonomous area is still occupied by Israelis.

The issue of settlements along with the status of Jerusalem is so sensitive that it was put off until negotiations take place on the second stage of the accord, due to be begin in a year-and-a-half.

Although the official government position is that the settlements will remain under Israeli authority, Peres indicated a willingness to compromise. "There are several settlements we will have to relocate," Peres said. "Like Netzarim. It's a matter of time." In other cases, he said he felt changing the "rapport" between the 120,000 settlers and the 1.3m Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza could resolve the problem. Referring to settlers who reject Palestinian rule and refuse to move, he said: "Once we shall take a final decision, they shall have to cope."

That statement is a direct challenge. Although the settlers evoke little sympathy from most Israelis—even Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister, called them "cry babies"—they are a vocal, well financed group who base their claims to eretz Israel [the land of Israel] on the Biblical history of the Jews, something difficult to reject openly in a state based on religion. And their political allies have votes.

Left-wing Israeli political figures have made similar comments, but Peres' s assertion carries extra weight now it is being said by the senior minister who, with Rabin, signed the declaration of principles in Washington a year-and-a-half ago, won the Nobel peace prize for it and is now battling to put it into practice.

It also comes at a particularly controversial time in Israel. Last week, two settlers were killed when extremists from the Palestinian fundamentalist group Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] raked a commuter bus with machinegun fire outside Hebron, home to some of the most radical of the settlers living in the areas which will eventually come under 'Arafat's control.

If anyone can get away with it, however, Peres can. Procurement chief for the Israeli army during the 1948 war for a state, Labour leader for 15 years, prime minister for two, and now foreign minister in one of the most trying times any Israeli government has endured, Peres knows the current dangers but is still happiest discussing his vision of a future for a Jordanian-Palestinian- condominium which he outlined in his recently published memoirs, "Battling for Peace."

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That might be far down the line, but "I have always thought pessimism is a useless emotion", said Peres, who has always been a bit too smooth for voters.

Despite the delays in implementing the Oslo accord—the original agreement called for Palestinian control over the West Bank and Gaza and elections by July 1994, but now even a new target date of July 1995, seems unlikely to be met—Peres insisted that growing Israeli opposition to the peace agreement, caused by continued Palestinian violence, would not change the government's commitment to implement it. "If we shall not be too sensitive to public opinion, we can do it," he said. "The test of a government is not when it is popular but when it is unpopular."

While demanding that 'Arafat must control his extremists, he said he understood the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader's problems, particularly the fact that international donors have failed to deliver funds which would have allowed him to have improved living conditions and cement his authority. "I never thought I would find myself in the position of soliciting funds for 'Arafat," Peres said.

### Peres Tours Proposed Industrial Parks

*TA2603170195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 26 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today toured five proposed sites along the line between Israel and the territories to be used for industrial parks for Palestinians. Peres has spearheaded a plan for eight such parks to boost employment for Palestinians and promote economic cooperation between Palestinians, Israel, and international bodies.

The foreign minister promised that none of the industrial zones would be built on land confiscated from Arabs and that the selection of all the sites was being done in cooperation with the Palestinian Authority. He was responding to claims by residents of Tulkarm that the land being considered for one of the parks was indeed confiscated.

Speaking at the Tulkarm site, Peres described the project:

[Begin Peres recording] We have agreed with the World Bank that we shall go for a feasibility study done jointly by the bank, by Israel, and by the Palestinians. Here, in Tulkarm, we hope to build an industrial park and also a technological center so people will be able to work and young people will be able to be trained here. And we do believe this is a very imaginative approach: Instead of putting mines on the borders or building fences, we would like really to create job opportunities; and instead of those places being cut off and divided, they can become centers for cooperation for the benefit of all parties. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 26 March carries a report on Peres's tour of the Green Line today, in which he commented on the exchange between Prime Minister Rabin and Likud Chairman Netanyahu, noting that Peres "accused the Likud of wicked statements and baseless accusations against the government and the prime minister." In a recorded passage, Peres says: "The Likud accuses some of us of being traitors. Does this make us traitors? If they want a different style, they should start with themselves. The Likud's style is totally unacceptable. They keep shouting that the prime minister is a traitor and that we are shutting our eyes, thereby endangering the settlers. There is nothing more wicked than this. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is making enormous efforts and the government is investing tremendous amounts of money to ensure the security of all the settlements and all the settlers. It is high time that the Likud changed its style."]

### Knesset Rejects No-Confidence Motion

*TA2703180895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Knesset has rejected the motion of no confidence submitted by the National Religious Party and Tzomet due to Minister Yosi Sarid's statements about a Palestinian state. The motion was rejected by a majority of 59 votes against 43.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht noted that SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] voted against the government.

### Morocco Opens 'Diplomatic Representation' Office

*TA2703185995 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[Political correspondent Gadi Sukenik video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Morocco is the third Arab country after Egypt and Jordan to open a diplomatic representation in Israel. Without any publicity, and under a heavy veil of secrecy, a Moroccan interests office is being established in Tel Aviv. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports from the site:

[Sukenik] We are at the corner of Weizman Street in Tel Aviv's Kikar Hamedina. This is where the peace process has once again assumed tangible form. Morocco is in the process of establishing its first diplomatic representation here. There are still no signs on this building that used to be the Embassy of Zaire. Morocco is now the third Arab state after Egypt and Jordan to give peace an official stamp of approval.

Today, in spite of the fact that Israel opened an interests office in Rabat, the capital of Morocco, five months ago, we encountered an atmosphere of secrecy. Ambassador Gufrani Talal and his deputy landed here almost incognito. They are now quietly turning this rented apartment into Morocco's modest legation. [passage omitted]

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The deputy head of the legation refused to allow us into the apartment today. Eventually, however, even the reticent Moroccan diplomat relented a little and told us that due to his government's desire to maintain a low profile, there would be no inauguration ceremonies, but the office would start operating soon and issue Israelis visas to Morocco like a full-fledged consulate. Despite all the secrecy and the delays, the Moroccans are already here.

Who is next? Foreign Ministry officials are expecting the Omanis and Tunisians. These contacts also involve delays and problems; Foreign Ministry officials nevertheless expressed the hope that they would also arrive within a matter of weeks or at the most several months.

## Foreign Ministry Opposed to Visit of Taiwanese President

*TA2603114895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Mar 95 p A4*

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] Taiwanese President Li Teng-hui wants to come on a first-ever private visit to Israel, which could be described as a "vacation." Foreign Ministry officials are vehemently opposed to this visit in order to avoid harming relations with China. Israel has not been officially notified of the visit.

The Taiwanese newspaper, UNITED DAILY NEWS, reported on Friday [24 March] that Li wanted to leave for a "vacation" in the Middle East on 1 April and visit the Gulf Emirates, Jordan, and "possibly also Israel."

Foreign Ministry sources said yesterday that initial reports about the Taiwanese president's plans to visit the region were received approximately two months ago. Like most countries, Israel has promised China that it would not maintain diplomatic and political ties with Taiwan. China does not rule out economic links between other countries and Taiwan but is deeply opposed to any steps with political significance.

Israel maintains economic ties with Taiwan and operates a commercial legation there under the direction of Ilan Ma'or, a Foreign Ministry representative.

Taiwan maintains three economic legations in the Middle East: in Jordan, the Gulf Emirates, and Israel. It has diplomatic relations with about 20 countries in the Third World.

Foreign Ministry sources stated that "the United States refused to even let the Taiwanese president's jet stop over on its way to Latin America. A visit to Israel by such a high-ranking personage will not bring any benefit and will only seriously damage Israel's relations with China.

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## AL-ASWAQ: Cabinet Reshuffle Expected 'Soon'

*JN2703182395 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 27 Mar 95 p 1*

[Report by Faysal al-Shubul]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-ASWAQ has learned from government and parliamentary sources that the Jordanian cabinet will be reshuffled shortly after Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir's return home in the company of His Majesty King Husayn.

The sources said there are no political reasons behind this reshuffle and added that the actions of one minister necessitate a quick reshuffle that will involve several other ministers, including ministers from the House of Representatives.

The parliamentary sources expected the reshuffle to include main government portfolios and to exclude ministers described by some as an "extra burden." The sources expected the reshuffle to come soon because al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir will not tolerate a political crisis in his government due to the behavior of a minister outside work.

[Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic on 27 March in a similar report adds: "a senior official has committed an immoral crime involving someone else's wife, and he is expected to lose his important position soon." Concerning another minister, AL-MAJD adds: "Ibrahim 'Izz- al-Din, minister of state for cabinet affairs, has refrained from carrying out his ministerial duties to protest official infringements on democracy and the unjustified and miscalculated rush toward normalization with the Zionist enemy."]

## Further Reportage on King Husayn's U.S. Visit

### Husayn, Clinton Hold Private Meeting

*JN2803070995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 28 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn and the U.S. President held a private meeting at the White House in Washington yesterday evening. This meeting was followed by an expanded meeting attended by senior officials from both sides.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on a number of regional and international issues of common concern, particularly the Middle East peace process. The United States reaffirmed its commitment to support Jordan in all fields to enable it to play its major role in the Middle East peace process.

The U.S. side also reaffirmed the U.S. Administration's determination to fulfill its commitments toward Jordan and U.S. President Bill Clinton's statements during his visit to Jordan, particularly on the writing off of all Jordan's debts to the United States. The U.S. side said that the U.S. Administration will work together with the Congress to write off the debts before the end of the year.

The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, prime minister; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Court; His Highness Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, military adviser of his majesty the king; 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, foreign minister; and Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, Jordan's ambassador in Washington. On the U.S. side, the meeting was attended by Anthony Lake, assistant to the president for national security affairs; Robert Pelletreau, assistant secretary of state; Mark Parris, deputy assistant to the president for national security affairs; the U.S. ambassador in Amman; and a number of senior officials at the Department of State and the White House.

### Husayn Meets House Speaker, Senate Member

*JN2803071695 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0530 GMT 28 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] His Majesty the King and U.S. President Bill Clinton have held talks at the White House on regional and international issues, including Middle East peace. [passage omitted]

Following the White House talks, his majesty met with the House of Representatives' Speaker Newt Gingrich. His majesty reiterated Jordan's firm commitment to seek just and comprehensive peace and back any effort in support of other tracks of peace negotiations with Israel to achieve the aspired peace.

Mr. Gingrich commended his majesty's support of the peace process, stressing the House of Representatives' commitment to Jordan, starting with debt forgiveness. He also hailed Jordan's policy to consolidate democratic life, political pluralism, the respect of human rights, and comprehensive national development.

His majesty also met with Democrat Patrick Leahy, member of the Senate Foreign Appropriations Committee, who told him of the Senate's overwhelming support to write off the kingdom's debt to the United States.

## CBJ Experts To Assist Palestinian Monetary Authority

*JN2503095195 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Mar 95 p 2*

[Article by a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Jordanian experts will help the Palestinian self-rule authority set up measures to monitor and supervise commercial banking in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in coordination with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi said Friday.

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An agreement in principle to this effect was reached during discussions the CBJ held with a visiting delegation from the Palestinian Monetary Authority (PMA), Dr. al-Nabulsi told the JORDAN TIMES.

The agreement now awaits IMF arrangements under its technical assistance programme for the Palestinians to pay for the experts, designated by the CBJ, for their work in the territories, Dr. al- Nabulsi said.

"We discussed what are the needs of the Palestinian (Monetary Authority) and agreed that some CBJ experts will work with them to train them in supervision of banking," he said.

The Palestinian delegation to the meetings was headed by Fu'ad Busaysu, chief of the Palestinian Monetary Authority (PMA). Dr. al- Nabulsi and his executive deputy, Ahmad 'Abd-al-Fattah, represented the CBJ.

Among the main topics for the discussions were modalities of cooperation in banking affairs between the CBJ and the Palestinian Monetary Authority and a review of Jordanian moves to make the Jordanian dinar convertible.

According to a report in the local press, "the Palestinian side was briefed on the progress towards the issue of making the Jordanian dinar convertible and the approval of the International Monetary Fund for the issue."

The report said the Palestinian side "was comfortable with the developments because of the stability of the dinar that will be reflected on the residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

According to informed sources, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) headed by Yasir 'Arafat appears to have shelved its plans to issue a Palestinian currency if only because of the potential problems it could create that would edge out the symbolic nationalistic gain that the authority envisaged.

Dr. al-Nabulsi said the CBJ and the PMA had worked out the guidelines for licensing banks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in line with the agreement that was signed between the Jordanian Government and the PNA in December. He did not elaborate.

According to the local report, the two sides agreed that any Jordanian bank interested in opening a new branch in the autonomous Gaza Strip and Jericho has to secure an approval from the PNA and after getting a PNA approval it should apply to the Central Bank of Jordan for its consideration of the application and decisions.

For banks which want to open branches in other parts of the West Bank which are still under occupation, the issuance of licences will be done in coordination with the Central Bank of Jordan and the Palestinian Monetary Authority.

That arrangement was warranted under the provisions of an agreement reached between Jordan and Israel in December 1993. That accord calls for coordination between the Central Bank of Jordan and the Bank of Israel to allow the operations of Jordanian commercial banks in the occupied territories.

During last week's meeting the Palestinian delegation was given a briefing on the performance of the branches of Jordanian commercial banks already in operation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as the parameters adopted by the Central Bank of Jordan in terms of the bank branches' liquidity, reserves and related issues.

The Palestinian National Authority is seeking a larger infusion of liberal credit facilities for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Most banks are reluctant to adopt a very liberal approach if only because of the absence of law-enforcement measures in the territories. However, most of the banks report that their branches are doing relatively well in the West Bank and Gaza Strip despite problems related to recovery of dues.

A World Bank team is expected to visit the Gaza Strip soon for discussions with the Palestinian National Authority and its related agencies, including the PMA, on developing the banking sector in the occupied territories in coordination with the IMF.

### 'Sources' Deny Arresting Hamas Official

*MM2703150295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Mar 95 p 1*

[Unattributed report: "Jordanian Denial of Hamas Official's Arrest"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-HAYAH—Well-informed Jordanian sources denied yesterday what Palestinian sources had said, namely that the Jordanian security authorities had arrested one of the main cadres of the Islamic Resistance Movement "Hamas" upon his arrival in the Jordanian capital over two weeks ago.

The sources told AL-HAYAH that Jordanian authorities "do not arrest anyone because of his political affiliations, whether he is from Hamas or any of the organizations complying with the laws in the country."

The sources pointed out that Jordan "does not arrest anyone who does not violate Jordanian laws or harm the country's security and citizens."

Well-informed Palestinian sources had said that the Jordanian authorities arrested a Hamas cadre "without listing specific reasons for his arrest or charging him." They also pointed out that "Hamas circles are dissatisfied with this measure, which is considered a development in the wrong direction in terms of the Jordanian authorities' dealings with Hamas and its symbols."

The sources stressed that "the person in question has never engaged in any activities against Jordan. All his activities were conducted in the framework of Hamas activities against the Zionist enemy in the occupied West Bank." They added that the arrested person, whose

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name they did not reveal, holds a Jordanian passport and that he went to Amman on a "family" visit.

### Bahraini, UAE Ministers of Agriculture Arrive

*JN2603203995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Habib Ahmad al-Qasim, Bahraini minister of commerce and agriculture and head of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development [AOAD] Executive Council, arrived in Amman this evening on an official visit to Jordan. The Bahraini minister will take part in the meetings of the AOAD Executive Council's 3d session, which will begin in Amman tomorrow, 27 March. Sa'id al-Raqbani, minister of agriculture and fisheries in the United Arab Emirates [UAE], also arrived in Amman this evening. Both officials were received at Amman civil airport by Minister of Agriculture Mansur Bin-Tarif and a number of ministry officials.

### Algerian Parliamentarian Departs Amman

*JN2703193495 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vice Chairman of Algeria's Transitional National Council Hocine Haydar has praised Jordan's leadership and people. Mr. Haydar said his majesty the king's courageous stances to serve the Arab and Islamic nations are a source of pride for all Arabs and Muslims. He praised Jordan's democratic process and pluralism, describing them as an example to be followed.

Speaking upon departure last night, Mr. Haydar said his visit to Jordan came within the framework of a plan to boost bilateral relations between the Jordanian and Algerian parliaments.

### Turkey Said 'Responsible' for Situation in North Iraq

*JN2503093395 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Mar 95 pp 1, 25*

[Editorial: "The Only Solution in Northern Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Turkish incursion into northern Iraq is a military solution for a political problem and is an attempt to solve an internal problem in Turkey through military containment of the external dimensions of this problem.

The mere repetition of this incursion proves that the military solution will only be a temporary one, and that the real and permanent solution is in the hands of Ankara and within Turkey itself.

Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller yesterday drew a link between the chaotic lawless situation in northern Iraq, caused by the Gulf war, and the current Turkish incursion into the area. She said in order for this incursion not to be repeated "we have to find a solution for the situation in Iraq after the Gulf crisis," and called for an "international solution' for this situation.

The Turkish prime minister was right in her diagnosis of the situation, but unfortunately she forgot that Turkey was a main contributor to this situation in the first place through its hosting of the allied Western forces that protect this odd situation in northern Iraq under the pretext of setting up a "safe haven" to protect the Kurds there. Would Ankara accept the setting up of such a safe haven in southeastern Turkey?

As much as Turkey is responsible for the creation and protection of this odd situation in northern Iraq, it is also responsible for ending this oddness.

It is time for Iraq's neighbors to give credibility to their statements about respecting Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity. And the only way to do this is by ending all these coercive conditions that prevent the return of this area to Baghdad's central authority in order to end the chaos and to restore law to northern Iraq, and so that security and stability will prevail on Iraq's borders with its neighbors.

If this clear-cut fact continues to be ignored, Iraq and Turkey, and probably the Kurds themselves, will not be the only parties that suffer from chaos and lawlessness.

### Writer: 'Normalization' Threat to Israel, Not Arabs

*JN2603134895 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Mar 96 p 18*

["Highlights" column by Fahd al-Fanik: "Perils of Normalization"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The negative aspect of normal relations with Israel is recognizing and giving it a legitimate existence. Because the recognition has already taken place with the signing of the treaty, and even before that by accepting Resolution 242, which stipulates secure and recognized boundaries for Israel, the normalization process has lost most of its peril for the Arab side. Indeed, warnings against the perils of normalization are based on psychological factors and on the idea that our culture is so fragile that Israel would dominate our culture and religion.

Normalization is actually more dangerous to Israel itself than to us, threatening perhaps its existence in the long run. Israel was established on a locked fortress mentality. The Arab boycott enhanced the mentality of the fortress and the siege, giving Israel a reason to be constantly prepared and granting it social cohesion despite the fact that Israel's population is composed of diverse peoples. Indeed, the alleged Arab threat has always given Israel unity and strength.

It is in Israel's interest to decide the battle with the Arabs by the force of arms. It has the technology, the organization, and world support. This method was tested in the

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five Israeli-Arab wars and the results were disasters and setbacks for the Arabs. Yet some Arab ideologues want more disasters and setbacks, which would result in more expansion for Israel and in more refugees and displaced people for the Arabs.

All indications are that in the event of an Israeli-Arab cultural and economic confrontation, the Arabs will have more chance of winning. The Hebrew language is composed of 16,000 words, one-third of which are derived from Arabic and one third from English. It cannot stand in the face of the Arabic language. In a normalized atmosphere, fifty Arabs might need to learn Hebrew but every Israeli must learn Arabic to be part of the Middle East.

The human aspect is basic and cannot be replaced by arms or money. There are 5 million Israelis facing 250 million Arabs. Can the Arabs be swallowed up when they have an extension into Israel represented by three quarters of a million people with pan-Arab affiliation, Palestinian nationality, and Israeli passports and when there is not a single Jew in Jordan? Moreover, the profound disparity in geographical areas and economic resources is self- evident. Yes, moralization is dangerous to Israel, where there will emerge dozens of emotional organizations that will fight normalization for only one organization here that lacks the power of persuasion.

### Government To Establish National Petroleum Company

*JN2603211595 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 26 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government has agreed to let the World Bank set up a regional office in Amman. The move was approved by last night's Cabinet meeting chaired by acting Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah. The World Bank had requested setting up a regional office to study projects related to infrastructure, water, and the environment that have become possible with prospects of peace in the Middle East.

The Cabinet also decided to establish a national petroleum company with a capital of 20 million [Jordanian] dinars. The company would be owned by the Jordan Investment Corporation with participation by other government institutions.

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## Defense Minister Dallul on Army Status, Peace

*MM2703112695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Mar 95 p 3*

[Interview with Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul by Shafiq al-Asadi in Abu Dhabi; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Asadi] Your visit to Abu Dhabi is connected with the "IDEX 95" International Defense Exhibition. So have you had contacts and consultations with the quarters and companies concerned with a view to obtaining or purchasing arms for Lebanon?

[Dallul] We are not interested in purchasing arms at present though I wish we had resources to do so. But we thought it vital that a Lebanese military delegation should attend the exhibition to have an on-the-spot look at the latest equipment and exhibits and discuss modern technology, because, as you know, we have been away from these fields for a long time and so we have to come back to keep abreast with the developments.

In this context, the visit has been very successful. The military delegation has been able to see all types of weapons and to discuss them and attend military parades. Thus the visit has achieved its desired objective.

As to contacts, there is no need for them at present, because we are not intending to purchase arms. But the visit was necessary to keep abreast with developments.

[Al-Asadi] How did you find the exhibition and what is your evaluation of the Arab ability to hold such exhibitions?

[Dallul] There is no doubt that the exhibition prompts admiration for the organizers because it is, indeed, a very large exhibition and can be considered one of the largest exhibitions in the world. Furthermore, it is distinguished this year by the fact that the organizing committee was a national committee, unlike in the past when the organization of the exhibition was reliant on foreign quarters.

I believe also that the exhibited arms and equipment are extremely sophisticated and the number of exhibitors was double that of the previous exhibition. We have also noticed that the majority of the delegations attending the exhibition have come not only to study the modern technologies used in arms manufacturing but also to discuss and sign contracts.

Many delegations have signed contracts with the exhibitors.

[Al-Asadi] How far have you gone in rebuilding the Lebanese Army?

[Dallul] As regards training, the Army has reached the top. With regard to discipline and national fusion, the Army is in a very reassuring condition. But we have a great shortage of arms and equipment and are trying to provide them within our available capabilities. Quite often we purchase used weapons from various sources and renovate them. A budget has been allocated at the Ministry of Defense for securing such weapons and renovating the destroyed barracks. But naturally we continue to need more weapons.

[Al-Asadi] Do you have a future plan for rebuilding the Army?

[Dallul] Of course. We have carried out a full study which is now complete and ready. We have begun by meeting our needs for helicopters. Soon we will receive 19 such helicopters. This is in addition to our renovation of Gazelle helicopters. Soon too we will be having coastguard boats and small warships. There is a great deal of development and achievement in these matters. But still they do not rise to the level of our ambition and expectations. For we operate within the sphere of reality.

[Al-Asadi] Where will you be getting your helicopters?

[Dallul] From the United States. They are aircraft that have been used before and are being renovated and maintained anew.

[Al-Asadi] Have you received any arms aid or promises of arms aid to enhance the defense capabilities of the Lebanese Army?

[Dallul] Nobody has given us anything except for the Syrians who gave us some arms and some equipment.

[Al-Asadi] The Lebanese Army has entered many areas in Lebanon, the last of which was the area east of Sidon. Do you have plan for entering other areas?

[Dallul] The Army has gone into all the areas in Lebanon with the exception of the occupied southern area and the area where the UN forces are stationed. Two days ago, the Army raided areas in Lebanon where there were arms and it has carried out similar actions in the northern and mountainous areas and everywhere.

As to expansion into the areas where the UN forces are stationed, this is not possible without UN permission. Successive Lebanese governments have contacted the United Nations for this purpose, but no such expansion has taken place in these areas yet. We have to wait for that until the land [Southern Lebanon] is liberated. The Army is ready and possesses all the capabilities to impose security and to ensure that the only arms there would be its arms and that no military operations would be launched from the Lebanese territories.

[Al-Asadi] How do you view the Lebanese resistance and what is the Lebanese Army's attitude toward it?

[Dallul] The Lebanese resistance against whom? Against Israel? Living nations resist occupation when their lands are occupied. The absence of resistance would be tantamount to acceptance of the occupation. And if the conditions of the armies do not enable them to mount such a resistance, the peoples undertake the resistance with all the capabilities they possess. So should we ask why do you resist, or should we not rather ask why Israel has been occupying our land?

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The international community has passed Resolution 425 which says that Israel has occupied Lebanese territory and should withdraw from it. Why does not the UN Security Council enforce this resolution and adopt further resolutions as well?

So we must not look at the outcome but at the cause of it. Israel claims that it occupied the South to prevent the Palestinian resistance from mounting operations from there. But this resistance has ended now and the Israelis have reached a solution with the Palestinians. They have sat together and exchanged kisses and handshakes. Furthermore, we pledge that there will not be any operations from the Lebanese territories.

Therefore, Israel must be seeking other objectives. It wants to swallow and dominate Lebanon and create permanent strife there so that Lebanon would not become an obstacle in the way of its future ambitions to contain the Arab world and turn it into a market for its products. For whenever Israel strikes Lebanon it strikes at the economic institutions, the services and the hotels. When it invaded Lebanon in 1982, it destroyed all the infrastructures. More than one Israeli official has stated that they would not allow the Lebanese Government to progress in the field of development and reconstruction. This means that they do not want Lebanon to have an infrastructure so that Lebanon cannot resume its past activity and livelihood.

[Al-Asadi] Israel has resumed its siege of the Lebanese ports after having lifted it during the visit of Secretary Warren Christopher to the region. How do you interpret this and do you plan to contact the United States to lift the siege again?

[Dallul] Israel wants to exert pressure on us and create economic and social ties for us. Sometimes it tries to create security disruptions by sending booby-trapped cars or explosive charges into Lebanon. When the people became alert and cautious about these actions, Israel resorted to the method of shelling and bombing in order to create a rift between the government and the people. It tries to tell Lebanese citizens that they were being shelled because the Lebanese Government has failed to stop the resistance activities.

But the resistance was not staged by a decree of the Lebanese Government. It is a legitimate and natural right of peoples. We do not tell our people to resist or not to resist. We leave it to the people to manifest their opposition to the occupation in the manner they want, be it armed resistance or information resistance.

So the Israelis try to exert pressure on us by shelling us. Having found themselves faced with steadfastness, they resorted now to matters pertaining to subsistence. For the siege affects a large sector of fishermen who are being prevented from earning their substance and this brings pressure to bear on the Lebanese Government. It is part of the Israel designs that Lebanon should not enjoy any stability.

[Al-Asadi] As Israel had lifted the siege during Christopher's visit, do you think Washington is capable of intervening for lifting the siege once more?

[Dallul] The Americans have told us that the siege was lifted and we thanked them for that. But the reimposition of the siege means that the United States knew that it would be reimposed after Christopher's tour, or it could be that Israel has deceived the United States. But in both cases, it is the duty of the United States to act.

As to us, we have a decision that comes from the highest international body in the world. We have Resolution 425 which is also endorsed by the United States. Why does not it implement it then? For the world today is under the canopy of a one-power system.

But in the absence of action by the international community, we have to accept the challenge and struggle to face up to this world provocation. In their logic, anyone who opens fire on the occupier of his land would be a terrorist, but he who kills thousands of innocent people over many long years and prevents humanitarian institutions headed by the Red Cross from operating would not be considered a terrorist.

[Al-Asadi] Now that the negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track have begun to move, how do you view the chances of a similar movement on the Lebanese-Israeli track?

[Dallul] The Lebanese and Syrian tracks are joined together and cannot be separated, for we have entered the negotiations together. Some, may God forgive them, have differed with us and consequently have lost everything. We shall continue to uphold this togetherness and so whatever applies to the Syrian track applies to the Lebanese track.

[Al-Asadi] So you expect negotiations on the Lebanese-Israeli track to be resumed?

[Dallul] This depends on the ambassadors' negotiations. If progress is made, the negotiations process will develop. The negotiations could be held at the level of chiefs of staff whenever there is progress in the negotiations.

[Al-Asadi] If progress is made and the Syrian and Israeli chiefs of staff meet again, do you think that this will permit the holding of a Lebanese-Israeli security committee meeting, as was proposed by Lebanese President al-Hirawi?

[Dallul] It is not true that President al-Hirawi has proposed the formation of such a committee. This committee was formed as a result of pressure from within the United States on the American Administration to secure the lifting of the siege and bar the disciplinary measures taken against Lebanon by banning travel to Lebanon, and also in respect of travel tickets and the Middle East Airlines [sentence as published]. An American delegation arrived within the framework of a trade delegation and studied the situation on the spot.

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There is a conflict between the Department of Commerce and the State Department in Washington aimed at persuading the latter to abolish the ban on travel by Americans to Lebanon. They have asked us to send a security delegation to explain the measures and developments that have taken place in the field of security in Lebanon. This has actually happened and a Lebanese delegation went with a specific task and a specific agenda. The delegation replied to the questions put to it by the Americans and convinced them that the security measures at the airport and elsewhere have been good. But when the delegation returned home, the U.S. Administration did not take any action to lift the bar on travel to Lebanon.

[Al-Asadi] The committee we talked about is one that concerns Lebanon and Israel and the peace process between them. Can such a committee be formed and be at the level of chiefs of staff following the resumption of negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track?

[Dallul] Nobody has talked about this committee, and if the formation of such a committee is contemplated, then it must discuss the mechanism for withdrawal, because without withdrawal, there can be no topic for discussion. We are not prepared to discuss the economy, roads, and communications until the Israeli withdrawal takes place. This is only the logic of things. We are not prepared to go against history which says that the discussion of any matters with the enemy before his withdrawal will only mean bestowing legitimacy on and acceptance of his occupation.

[Al-Asadi] How do you view the use of joint withdrawal from Lebanon as a pretext?

[Dallul] Do the Israelis intend to expropriate the decisionmaking from Lebanon? If they mean by joint withdrawal the withdrawal of the Syrian forces [alongside the Israeli forces], then we say that we asked these Syrian forces to enter Lebanon to help us. We have written to Syria on more than one occasion and asked for its help. The al-Ta'if conference also asked it to help Lebanon and entrusted it with this task. After that, we wrote a message to the Syrian Government asking it to enter Lebanon. We cling to the Syrian forces' staying not only until the liberation of southern Lebanon but also until such time as we feel that we no longer need it.

We have a treaty of fraternity and joint cooperation with Syria and the world has nothing to do with the relationship between Lebanon and Syria. There should be no comparison in the matter of withdrawal between those who help us, sacrifice their lives and offer martyrs for our sake, and do all they can to help Lebanon, and those who occupy the land of Lebanon. For such a comparison is rejected.

[Al-Asadi] At present, the presidential powers are entering an important stage as a result of the call for the double amendment of the Lebanese Constitution so as to enable the president of the Republic to renew and extend his term of office and to permit the Army commander to nominate himself for the presidency. Do you support this amendment?

[Dallul] As a member of parliament, I support amendments which provide more options and alternatives in dealing with the question of powers. In the light of the prevailing conditions, we can decide what is wanted for the coming stage. In the light of our interests and developments, we decide the future steps.

As the Constitution, in its present form, constitutes an obstacle in some matters, then we should amend it.

[Al-Asadi] Do you support the single amendment or the double amendment?

[Dallul] Of course, I support the double amendment. But the commander of the Army is not a candidate so far. But if parliament deems it fit that the commander of the Army should declare his candidacy for the presidency, I do not believe that he will refuse to do so. If his nomination will serve the interests of Lebanon, then he cannot refuse. However, the commander of the Army has never said that he wants to nominate himself. After some forces decided to nominate him for the presidency, I had several meetings with him during the past few days at which he discussed many issues of interest to the Army, but I have not heard from him that he has decided to nominate himself. I, on my part, did not ask him anything. When I was asked to become commander of the Army, I accepted this task. But I think that this matter should rest with parliament. So if it decides that the Army commander should run, then he should accept. If, on the other hand, parliament decides to extend and renew the president's term of office, then that too is good.

For the president of the republic has carried out great work and accomplished great things. There were barricades inside our homes, but he removed them forcefully and with wisdom. He cooperated effectively with the cabinet and parliament to restore life to Lebanon and thus Lebanon began to play a role in the region.

We in the government of Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri have succeeded in playing an important role in the field of development, reconstruction, and steadfastness and the bolstering of the steadfastness of our people in the South and the Western al-Biqa' and the consolidation of our national unity.

All these achievements will make parliament decide whether Lebanon was in need of such achievements or not.

[Al-Asadi] Based on your experience, how was the coexistence between the Ministry of Defense and the Army Command during the past era?

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[Dallul] From the very first day, I agreed with General Lahhud that I will work as Defense Minister and he will work as commander of the Army. So we have never had any conflict between us at all. We have always been in harmony. My job has been to protect the Army from the politicians and prevent the Army from entering the arena of politics, because of the harm this would bring to the Army, and I have succeeded in doing this. So the Army now is very far from politics and politics have not penetrated the ranks of the Army. We are bound together by friendship, love, and mutual respect.

[Al-Asadi] Do you consider this a nomination of the Army commander for the presidency of the republic?

[Dallul] No, no. I am bound to a special line with a number of other members of parliament. We will discuss the matter and take a unified stand. Besides, General Lahhud has never announced his nomination nor did the president of the Republic ask for the renewal or extension of his term of office.

[Al-Asadi] How do you view the future of the Army and the future of Lebanon as a whole?

[Dallul] I am very optimistic about the future of Lebanon and the Army. The Army has helped not only in the preservation of security and order but also in numerous projects such as those of forestry, the cleaning of historic monuments, and other projects and voluntary activities in many ministries.

The greater the Army the greater the homeland because the Army is for the whole of the homeland. We must keep the Army out of the conflict. If we harm the Army then we would be harming the homeland.

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### Paper Details 'Four-Phase' Syrian-Israeli Talks

*JN2703175895 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 23 Mar 95 pp 1, 30*

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, occupied Jerusalem—AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I and news agencies—Israeli sources have said that Israeli Ambassador in Washington Itamar Rabinovich will return to the U.S. capital on 25 March to resume talks with Syrian Ambassador Walid al-Mu'allim. Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said that the resumption of the Washington negotiations is not a breakthrough.

In a statement to Israeli radio, Beilin said that if the negotiations continue at this level, Syria and Israel will not arrive at peace this year. "Then, it will be difficult to arrive at peace next year," he added.

High-ranking diplomatic sources in Damascus have disclosed to AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I that the mechanism of the current negotiations in Washington consists of four phases as follows:

—Phase One: The current talks between the two ambassadors deal exclusively with withdrawal and security arrangements. Working in accordance with the instructions of their governments, the two ambassadors will draft the guidelines of those two issues.

—Phase Two: When the two ambassadors conclude their talks and convey their outcome to their governments, Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the negotiations, will make a shuttle tour between Damascus and Tel Aviv (next week) to resolve pending issues and promote the negotiations.

—Phase Three: If the first and second phases end successfully, and if the two sides agree to continue negotiations, Ross will invite military experts from both sides to draft a withdrawal timetable and agree on the implementation of the security arrangements agreed to earlier.

—Phase Four: If real progress is made, the chiefs of staff will be invited to Washington to discuss the agreed final security arrangements.

Observers in Damascus told AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I that each phase will be linked to the success of the preceding one. If there is no such success, then the entire mechanism will be disrupted. Therefore, progress will not be easy, and the resumption of contacts does not necessarily mean progress in the talks.

High-ranking Syrian media sources summed up to AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I Damascus's non-negotiable points as follows:

1. Syria cannot accept any Israeli security presence on its national soil.

2. Syria rejects any rush at the expense of territory and rights. A peace that cannot be lasting and durable is rejected.

3. Balanced [mutawazin] security on both sides of the 4 June 1967 line must be equitable [mutakafi'] and balanced.

4. Commitment to withdrawal from the Golan is a basic condition for any progress on other aspects of the peace process.

### Paper Assails Senator Helms' Statements

*JN2803075095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 Mar 95*

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial today, TISHRIN says: Syria has stressed that peace is its strategic option. Syria opened its doors before the current U.S. initiative, provided the necessary conditions for it to continue, and protected it from all the Israeli minefields.

The paper adds: Syria has not plundered the U.S. coffers. Nor has it pushed the American people into bloody conflicts with others. Therefore, Syria and the Syrian people were expecting from Jesse Helms, chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, a good word—one that agrees with the official U.S. statements. These statements confirm Syria's seriousness and keenness for peace and the important role Damascus plays in guaranteeing security, peace, and stability in the entire Middle East.

The paper says: Undoubtedly, Helms would change his position and statements if he took off his Israeli glasses and saw things and facts in the Middle East through U.S. eyes, with a concern for U.S., and not Israeli, interests.

The paper adds: Israeli and Zionist propaganda has deceived hundreds of U.S. officials, including Helms, and pushed them to take unfair stands that do not agree with American desires and ambitions. The American people have paid, and are still paying, a dear price for this. The day will come when the United States will discover the major losses it has endured throughout the world because of Israel. We must stress that Syria will never be affected by such unfair accusations or statements made by this or that official.

### Khaddam, al-Shar' Receive U.S. Delegation

*JN2803073095 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1300 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received a delegation from the U.S. Foreign Relations Council. The delegation is comprised of Richard Murphy, former assistant U.S. secretary of state and former U.S. ambassador to Syria; Joseph Hoar; and Judith Kiper. The talks dealt with the situation in the region and the peace process.

Moreover, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today also received the U.S. Foreign Relations Council delegation,

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headed by Richard Murphy, former assistant U.S. secretary of state. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the international situation and developments in the region.

### 'Decisive' U.S. Stand Against Israel Urged

*JN2803074395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 Mar 95*

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary entitled "So That the Opportunity Is Not Wasted," AL-THAWRAH says: We are certain that Israel will grow even more savage, aggressive, and hostile toward peace as long as it is assured about the U.S. commitment, and as long as the U.S. arsenal remains open to it. Such a situation requires a decisive stand from the United States to support the trend toward a genuine peace. Such a stand would make Israel realize that U.S. protection is not unlimited or without a ceiling.

The paper adds: More than once, and through President Clinton, his vice president, and his secretary of state, the U.S. Administration has stressed that it seeks to achieve just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy and the U.S. initiative. The United States has exerted several efforts in this regard, which were all confronted by Israeli rejection.

The paper adds: On the other hand, the Arab parties, and Syria in particular, have dealt with these efforts in a sincere and serious manner. This fact was confirmed by the U.S. officials themselves.

The paper stresses: We in Syria, as well as the Arab nation, want peace and seek to establish it on its well-known bases.

The paper says that to achieve any progress in the peace process, Israel must be forced to change its position, and such a change can be brought about only by the United States.

The paper urges a more decisive stand against Israel to implement the conditions for peace before the Washington talks fail and before the new chance for peace is squandered like previous ones.

### 'Parallel,' 'Equal' Security Guarantees Stressed

*JN2703162195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 26 Mar 95*

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Peace in the Middle East is no longer a dilemma or an equation that is difficult to solve. The road to peace is clear for anyone who wants to follow it and reach the desired end. We do not believe that some three and a half years after the Madrid Conference, the leaders of Israel are still unaware of the nature of the peace process and the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace, which Syria aspires for and is working to achieve—the only peace that can be viable and stable.

Israel has tried separate deals and partial solutions. Even though it does not want to admit it, Israel realizes that these solutions did not bring peace, did not provide security, and did not guarantee stability. We do not need to present evidence to confirm this fact or what is obvious. Despite this, Israel continues to avoid the requirements of a real peace on the Syrian track even though it certainly knows that there can be no peace in the region without Syria. This is something that has been admitted by more than one Israeli official.

If Israel were really serious about achieving peace, it would have announced its commitment to these requirements which do not deviate from what the international community has approved in its UN Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and from the land-for-peace principle, which the previous U.S. Administration has announced and to which the current Administration is committed.

This equation is very simple and clear. Despite this, Israel does not want this equation to be a foundation for peace. This is very simply because Israel wants to keep the Arab territories, or at least parts of them, by resorting to the pretext of security now and later to that of Israeli public opinion.

Of course, these Israeli pretexts cannot withstand any objective and logical discussion. Security does not come from stockpiling weapons and continuing the occupation. Security comes from establishing peace, discarding war, abandoning hostile ambitions in the Arab territories, and withdrawing to the 4 June 1967 borders.

The question which seriously poses itself here is: Why does Israel want its unacceptable conditions to replace UN resolutions and the terms of reference of the peace process based on which the Madrid Conference was launched? Moreover, why do the Arabs have to give Israel through the peace talks what it did not get with the force of the occupation, that is, the territories and security guarantees? Furthermore, why does Israel want security guarantees when it is the one that committed aggression and occupied the Arab territories and when it is the one that does not want the Arabs to get parallel and equal [mutawaziyah wa mutasawiyah] security guarantees? The answer is very simple. Israel is using these security pretexts to avoid the facts and requirements of peace. Perhaps the world, which is closely watching the peace process, especially the U.S. and Russian cosponsors, has come to realize the purport and objectives of the Israel game.

Peace requires an Israeli commitment to UN resolutions which frankly stipulate the inadmissibility of occupying the Arab territories by force. Hence, this requires that the security arrangements be equal [mutasawiyah] for all parties in order for peace to be just.

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If Israel is trying to slip away from these clear bases, then it will be held responsible for obstructing any true effort to achieve peace. The U.S. co-sponsor, which took it upon itself to play the role of an honest broker and is the owner of the land-for-peace initiative, will also be held responsible. Peace will never be realized in the region as long as Israel continues to occupied a single inch of Arab soil. In return, Israel's announcement of its determination to fully withdraw from the Golan will be the important and big step which will actually put the region at the threshold of the desired just peace.

### Column: Anti-Israel Operation To Continue

*JN2703215595 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 21 Mar 95 p 3*

["With the Events" column by Ilyas Khuri: "Hebron Operation and the Impasse of the Oslo Agreement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The fedayeen Hebron operation the day before yesterday has come to shed light on the impasse the peace process is suffering on the Palestinian track. It proves anew the fiasco of the self-rule agreement on all levels, particularly in the field of liquidating the Palestinian resistance and providing security to the Zionist settlers.

Perhaps, Hebron constitutes the clearest example of the dimensions of the Arab-Zionist conflict. Neither the Oslo agreement nor any incomplete or partial agreement could put an end to this conflict. The conflict in Hebron is a reduced example of the more comprehensive conflict, for in it, there is an important religious place, the holy Ibrahimi Mosque. The settlers seek to occupy it, using all available means, and receiving direct support from the Israeli Government and army. The last of these means was the abominable bloody massacre which was perpetrated by one of the settlers against Arab worshipers last year. To be added to this are the repressive measures the army carries out against Hebron, particularly imposing a siege on it, arresting hundreds of its citizens, and imposing economic sanctions on it. In addition to this is the insistence of the settlers, whose number is no more than a few hundred, on settling in the center of the city and in its suburbs within the framework of the expansionist Zionist program which considers the West Bank the "Jews' historical" land from which it is impossible to withdraw.

In light of the developments which were produced by the self-rule agreement, which strongly prove that this agreement cannot achieve any of the legitimate Palestinian rights; foremost of which are the liberation of the occupied territories and the establishment of the independent national state in words and deeds, the fedayeen operations constitute the Palestinian people's legitimate and natural reply to the frustration and disappointment they are suffering from as a result of the exposure of the Oslo farce on the one hand, and as a result of the terrorism, repression, and tyranny they are being exposed to by both the Israeli army and settlers on the other.

These operations will continue as long as the occupation continues to weigh heavily on the Palestinian people's chests, and as long as Israel continues its terrorist settler policy which completely contravenes the process of the just and comprehensive peace which restores rights to owners.

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## Afghanistan

### Governments Prepares for Battle Against Taleban

#### Army in State of Alert in Maydan Shar

*LD2703192995 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] In having high military preparedness the forces of the Islamic Army are safeguarding the front line of the battle. The Mojahedin and units of the Army around the city of Kabul are watching every movement of the pseudo-Taleban. The army is prepared to crush the enemy when instruction is given to them by the country's military command.

The military correspondents of the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY who have visited the front line in Maydan Shar, writes:

The forces of the Islamic Army around Maydan Shar are in a full state of alert and they enjoy high morale [words indistinct]. General Abdol Odud, one of the officers of No. 70 mechanized division, said: We are now 3.5 km from Maydan Shar. Whenever the order is given to us, we can, God willing, capture Maydan Shar and its surrounding areas in a short time. [words indistinct].

#### Latest Clashes Reported

*LD2703180495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] We continue our news bulletin with a report by our colleague from Islamabad on the state of the latest clashes in Afghanistan:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] The clashes today also continued intensely between the forces loyal to Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani and the forces of the Taleban group in the west of Kabul. The clashes began the morning of 26 March when the government forces attacked Taleban positions in order to push their forces further from Kabul.

According to Afghan sources, the government forces launched an extensive air and land offensive today against Taleban positions and bases in Maydan Shar, the center of Wardak Province, located 30 km west of Kabul.

An Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman reported the advances made by the government forces in the region and claimed that the government forces have captured an important hill.

While Afghanistan's Defense Ministry has stated that operations by the government forces in the region will continue, the available reports say that Taleban forces have shown resistance against these attacks.

Another report indicates that the government forces have also attacked the region of Mohammad Agha in Logar Province.

Reports received from northern Afghanistan say that the body of 'Abdol Ali Mazari, the murdered leader of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] was buried today in Mazar-e Sharif. [end recording]

### Rabbani Addresses Diplomats Serving Abroad

*LD2403125395 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Mar 95*

[Speech by President Borhanoddin Rabbani at a seminar of diplomats serving abroad, in Kabul on 23 March—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] I welcome this seminar which has been convened at the initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in which a number of our dear brothers have taken part. [passage omitted]

After its victory the Islamic State was confronted with numerous difficulties. The issue of Afghanistan's division was a crucial and fundamental problem. Most of the enemies wanted to divide Afghanistan. Of course you were following the events and you know how they wanted to divide Afghanistan. Assistance by some countries to the opposition forces, which took place in a shameless manner as an interference [as heard], was continuing. Even if they did not want to change the basic map of Afghanistan, nonetheless, they wanted a country within the previous map of Afghanistan but composed of provinces having a partial link with the capital while having close relations with other countries. Each of these countries wanted to have control of their sphere of influence as their own provinces and to have links with these regions. [words indistinct]

As we have said time and again the fighting in our country was not an internal conflict in its true meaning. This was [word indistinct] foreign conspiracies which was imposed on our nation in promoting their own specific interests. Once Afghanistan was a buffer state between the former Soviet Union and Britain, subsequently the countries of the western camp. When we were liberated the issue of buffer state was no longer there, Afghanistan was turned into a linking bridge to Central Asia and every country was rushing to utilize Afghanistan, legitimately or illegitimately, as a passageway, in order to achieve their economic interest. Each one wanted to have influence in any manner that was possible so that to secure their economic interest prior and together with their political interest. Even such action results in the [word indistinct] and elimination of whatever we have got or even our country. These conflicts and clash of interests by some of our neighboring countries, caused us to suffer a great deal. The continuation of these experiments to achieve their objective is, of course, the story of the Taleban. I hope this case ends in failure too.

Regarding the Taleban issue: I must say that when the Taleban movement began we regarded the initial work of Taleban as a good move because they said that their

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purpose was to open roads. [Words indistinct] We said that it was a good job if they could do it. But when they made progress and we looked at their work and unfamiliar faces emerged, we looked at them with suspicion. We sent a delegation to them. We then came to the conclusion that underneath they are working on the instruction of others, even though at the beginning it was a desirable move and perhaps some of them were good people too; but at some stage the foreigners (?penetrated them). Despite this, we did not want to clash with them. For this reason we evacuated Chahar Asiab and Reshkhur at their request, in order to prevent fighting. We seized these places earlier, [but evacuated] and then seized them again after fighting. [passage omitted]

To find a solution to the issues and the fact that what we should do, the United Nations, as you all follow the events, convened a number of sessions and wanted to play a role in ending the fighting and bring peace in Afghanistan, as well as the OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] foreign ministers. [passage omitted]

The United Nations issue: When this organization stepped in we welcomed it. They did not have any plan of their own in the past. They asked us to put at their disposal some plans. We put forward some plans whereby the people of Afghanistan could be represented. We have considered parties and two delegates from each provinces. We have also proposed that some learned personalities from inside and outside Afghanistan should also take part in it. This plan was not looked at favorably by the United Nations because of nonacceptance by other opposition parties. Various other plans were introduced. The latest UN plan contained a provision to recall two delegates from each provinces. What we said in the past they then came to agree with it. But the United Nations has not worked out any mechanism on how these people can be selected in the provinces. [Words indistinct] Still, we do not reject the UN plan. However, one thing must be said that the UN should not do anything that could be against the will of the people. The United Nations should not do anything such as designing a plan elsewhere without considering the objective realities of Afghanistan, and bring it here and ask us to implement it. Meanwhile, it can be impractical too. [Words indistinct] Despite the Taleban issue and subsequent developments, we are interested in UN participation and cooperation provided it is not some theoretical or dictated measure, so to speak. They should not present us with something pre-arranged. It should conform to the realities of our country and should represent the will of the people.

We are not even going back to the stage saying that such and such a party no longer exists. However, we will say that the parties must try to attach value to the will of the people and to the people's delegates rather than attaching value to themselves. They should not insist on their permanent existence because they are Hezbs [parties] and insist, therefore, on a particular share.

Of course the state had many difficulties. [passage omitted] Nevertheless, in the government of the Mojahedin during the past three years, despite military difficulties, we had difficulties with having no professional cadres, unfamiliarity of staff to jobs, organizational difficulties etc. We really had a series of disorganization problems and a series of failures. [Words indistinct] We needed and we now need professional cadres to fill the vacancies so we can stand against various kinds of difficulties. Nevertheless, we faced the difficulties stemming from the fighting, the difficulties stemming from the shortage of cadres, and the difficulties stemming from foreign conspiracies, difficulties of coalition government and spiteful propaganda. Another thing that was exploited to a great deal was the [feeling] that—and it was alleged that—since the Islamic revolution of Iran, every transformation that takes place under the title of Islamic is a sign of danger in the region and in the world. For this reason, it was thought that the Government of Afghanistan also would be a very dangerous fundamentalist government that would export revolution. There was a fear and terror [words indistinct].

I was aware of this and from the beginning, I was conscious of this, even since the jihad period, that we should not be identified as very extremist and dangerous elements. [Words indistinct] Despite some opposition by the Mojahedin, I paid visits to the United States and to Russia. I held talks with various presidents. I (?went) to France. We raised the issues and made many efforts, by the State and various personalities. [Words indistinct]

We should try to accomplish something. Even if we have two days left to do something we should do it. [passage omitted]

We did not [collaborate] with any country or circle which could in any way could be regarded against our dignity, national pride, or independence. It was not an easy job during the past difficult situation to organize all forces [words indistinct] Because, only a few tanks can alter the destiny of a system. We were under continuous [fire] during the past three years. There was not even a single day where hundreds of missiles and tanks were not fired. There were conspiracies every day and various kinds of plots. To spend all three years, day and night, in such a way was not an easy thing. [passage omitted]

Now we talk about diplomatic responsibilities and the tasks of our ambassadors: I confirm this notion that our political work, especially after the victory of the Islamic revolution under the present circumstance, is more important than our military tasks. Regarding the task of diplomacy—that is to say what tasks our diplomats must accomplish—I think it is better that our brethren with more experience in this regard pass on their experience to others. I believe that diplomacy, while being a science, is also an art with special characteristic. [passage omitted]

Finally, I express thanks to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and welcome the brethren who are present in here.

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### Defense Ministry Calls For Military Reform

*LD2503210295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Mohammad Yunis Qanuni, general head of political affairs in the Ministry of Defense and head of the Security Commission, called for a review of the policy and allocation of army ranks. [passage indistinct] He said: We call for reform in all social and military fields. In the first instance, we begin reform in the military, and I would volunteer first in this respect. Esteemed Mohammad Yunis Qanuni said the following in this regard:

[Begin Qanuni recording] Unfortunately, engagements of the imposed war have so far prevented us from serving our people properly. I believe that the allocation of army ranks and privileges that can be given to the members and officials of the state is the nation's right. The nation allocates this privilege to someone when he actually serves the people. We should not usurp the nation's or the people's right, which can be presented to someone on the basis of merit. For this purpose I seriously believe that the ground is now prepared and conditions are right to embark on a general reform on the state's political, administrative, and military structure as a whole. For this purpose, as far as the limit of my authority is concerned and, unfortunately, it was one of my duties within the framework of the Armed Forces [words indistinct]. The military ranks that were presented to the majority of the personnel are wholly unjust, beyond the norms and standards of the Armed Forces, and contrary to the professional principles of the Armed Forces. For this purpose I suggest that the first step of reform in the Army should take place after reviewing the military ranks that were given to a number of personnel, in particular those personnel who have joined the military from civilian life. This must be reviewed. The first stage of reform in the Armed Forces should start from this point. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

## Bangladesh

### Opposition Announces Dhaka Siege Program

*BK2803032495 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Dhaka Metropolitan Police have banned all types of rallies, meetings, processions, and demonstrations in certain areas of Dhaka city from midnight today till midnight tomorrow in view of tomorrow's Dhaka Siege program announced by some opposition political parties. A press release issued by the police said these areas include the link road between the House Building Finance Corporation Building in Purana Paltan and the southern part of Baitul Mukarram, the road linking the Bangladesh Secretariat with the northern part of Bijoynagar Road, the Freedom Fighters Sports Association area between Shaheed Nur Hossain Square and Golap Shah mausoleum, roads and areas adjoining Osmani Auditorium and Osmani Park, the western part of Abdul Gani Road, the eastern part of College Road, the junction in front of the old High Court building, the ration office on Segunbagicha Road, all sides of Ramna Park, Moghbazar junction, Park Avenue, Kakrail Church crossing, northern part of Hare Road, and Minto Road in front of Sheraton Hotel.

Apart from this, the carrying of firearms, swords, spears, guns, knives, rods, explosives, stones, and other items which can be hurled have also been banned from all areas of the capital. The press release adds that this step has been taken to maintain law and order and prevent all threats to the security of the people.

## India

### Missile Program Chief Views U.S. 'Pressure'

*BK2703134395 Delhi THE ASIAN AGE in English 20 Mar 95 p 1,4*

[Report by B.R. Srikanth]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangalore, March 19. India is in no mood to relent under pressure from the United States against deployment of the surface-to-surface missile, Prithvi, judging by the statement of Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the architect of the guided missiles programme.

"Our defence preparedness is based on the perception of threat to the nation's security. We cannot go by the suggestions of other countries on such matters. Can I ask one country to destroy all its nuclear weapons. It is like King Lear asking the waves to stop rolling," Dr. Kalam told reporters on Saturday when asked about the Clinton administration's opposition to deployment of the missile that has a range of 150 to 250 km.

Speaking about Agni, the intermediate range ballistic missile, Dr. Kalam said it was for the Indian government to take a decision on its deployment as that particular phase of technology demonstration has already been completed. The chief of the Defense Research and Development Organisation [DRDO] said he was satisfied with the budgetary allocations for research and development. "I have been stressing on selfreliance in defense-related technology. Our projects have not been starved of funds."

Earlier, inaugurating the Institute of Robotics, Dr Kalam said a number of technologies, originally developed by DRDO for strategic purposes, could now be used by the civilian sector. "I believe the time has come for us to transfer some of these critical technologies to the civilian sector, and enrich the nation as a whole. We should take up this transfer of technology as our latest mission, and take it up with all the enthusiasm and commitment that marked our technological missions."

Dr. Kalam, also scientific adviser to the defense minister, said the transfer of knowhow is crucial, particularly in the wake of liberalisation. "If our industry is going to survive in the face of global competition, it must have

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access to the latest technology. I want to tell you that Indian industrialists need not go outside to get the latest technology, at least not in robotics, artificial intelligence, and related areas. The Institute for Robotics and Intelligent Systems [IRIS] will give a competitive edge to the Indian industries in these areas."

The principal aim of IRIS is to disseminate the technologies and expertise developed at the Center for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics [CAIR]. The Department for Science and Technology [DST] has recognised IRIS as an Engineering Research Centre [ERS].

The Institute will have, as its first project, the development of an experimental facility for robotics research, funded jointly by the Department of Science and Technology and the DRDO. The proposed experimental facility will cater to the needs of the nation's research community by making available a series of advanced robotic systems of a variety of geometrics and for a variety of applications, all maintained in a good running order by IRIS. In addition to the joint DST-DRDO project, the Institute will actively diffuse the various technologies developed in the CAIR by taking up projects for the industry, conducting tutorial short courses, and offering junior and senior research fellowships.

The inauguration of the Institute coincides with the first tutorial conducted by the Institute, a two-day course on "Intelligent Robotic Systems in the Indian context." More than forty participants from industries, government research organisations and academics are attending the course. Mr M. Vidyasagar, director, CAIR, said basic research in artificial intelligence and robotics intrinsically threw up several civilian applications and these could be hamessed under the ERC. "We would like to make the ERC a profit centre. That it will be profitable is very clear to me. he said.

He said the ERC will tap the latent potential of CAIR. "Our goal is to build a team of international standards in the chosen fields, serve Indian industry and take up foreign contracts and to respond to the needs of the DRDO as and when we are called upon to do so. The ERC, which too will be headed by Dr Vidyasagar, will essentially meet the first goal. CAIR itself will continue to fulfill the goal of meeting DRDO requirements. CAIR has completed its first non-DRDO project, Gantry Robot, for Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for the Light Combat Aircraft [LCA] project. The two year project, worth 15 million, has given the CAIR retained earnings of approximately Rs [rupees] 500,000. Two more robots for the LCA project are in the pipelines.

CAIR was established in 1986. Its task is to conduct basic and applied research in the fields of artificial intelligence, robotics and automation, with an emphasis on defense requirements. It has a measly annual budget of about Rs 6 million, and employs over 25 scientists. The budget also included their salaries.

## Editorial Says Defense Sales Necessary

*BK2403073695 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 21 Mar 95 p 6*

[Editorial: "We in the Defense Market"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although the two-years sanctions period imposed upon the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is over, the United States has been continuing the restrictions on one pretext or another in the field of required technology for defense research. In addition, after having our cryogenic engine deal canceled, the United States has, with its various interpretations, put much equipment within the category of "double use." The plea given to support these measures is that since India has signed neither the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) nor the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) agreements, no cooperation with the ISRO is possible. Moreover, since a variety of technologies can be used in both civilian and military production, India should not be given technological assistance that might later be employed in the manufacture of weapons. These restrictions have created a grave problem for the Indian Defense Research Organization. Although, using its indigenous know-how, India has achieved significant success in the nuclear and missile research fields, India would save both time and money if, as with other countries, it could import certain equipment and technologies. Even the United States itself has been buying such technologies from other countries. Due to the American sanctions and this superpower's pressure on the other countries, grave problems confront India. However, there is still a big market available for weapons and their allied technology. Many developed countries are involved in cut-throat competition with each other to sell their technologies. Under the circumstances, it is not surprising if some Western countries try to derive advantage from the American sanctions. Besides, Russia, the Ukraine, Switzerland, Germany, France, and Britain also want to extend their markets for the sale of weapons and defense technologies. No doubt they are being pressured by the United States, but it is unlikely that Europe will continue to wilt under the pressure at the cost of its economic interests and risk neglecting Indian markets for long. Hence, the unambiguous signals received from many countries by the Indian organizations for defense and space research to the effect that these countries are willing to have deals with India for the sale of advanced technologies.

India herself has realized that this one-way traffic is not going to prove useful, especially in the field of defense equipment. This is because deals in this field on the international market involve trillions of dollars and India has to shell out her hard-earned cash. India can ill-afford to always be the buyer. So, this time at the International Weapons Exhibition, Indians were participating with indigenous defense products. Mr Vijay Kapoor, the secretary of defense at the production department, says: "Owing to our reduced costs, which have increased our competitiveness in the technological

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field, we have been able to export our defense equipment." In fact, India sold four "Chetak" helicopters to Namibia at good rates to enter a previously unknown market. Efforts are now being made on to sell "patrol and reconnaissance planes" and their technologies. In fact, the Indian strategy in the field of defense exports is not to sell small weapons and their technology. According to Mr Kapoor, we are offering full systems for sale. For the maintenance of these defense systems, the services or our defense research organizations will also be available. Some possible buyers for these exports have already been identified. With the exception of antitank and antiaircraft systems, the stress is more on the sale of electronic systems. A defense adviser, Mr Abdul Kalam, claims that soon India will also be able to compete favorably with Western countries in the field of "robots and artificial intelligence." Another area that has been targeted is getting the contracts for the maintenance and repair of Russian weapons and planes. After the withdrawal of the Russian protective cover, India is now entering this arena on the basis of her indigenous strength. In the new world order created by the open market system, generating sources of income from its defense productions is the only way left for India to become self-dependent.

### Bharat Electronics Develops Night Vision Goggles

*BK2603111795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 26 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Andhra Pradesh, the state-owned Bharat Electronics Limited at Machilipatnam has developed a new field night vision goggles. The instrument developed in the country for the first time is to be used during wartime. The goggles can locate the enemy within a range of 300 meters during the night.

## Sri Lankan President Arrives on State Visit

### Agreement on Economic Cooperation

*BK2603073695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 25 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Sri Lanka have agreed to forge closer economic cooperation and expand ties in several fields. President Chandrika Kumaratunga also sought Indian investment in areas of infrastructure and inputs in Sri Lanka as her hour long talks with the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, covered several matters including bilateral and regional issues. Both the leaders agreed to strengthen the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] to face the challenge of the 21st century and also to take steps to make the South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement effective to benefit the entire region. The two sides will work together to boost bilateral trade which is now heavily in favor of India.

Mrs. Kumaratunga wanted Indo-Sri Lankan ties to be warm and close as they were in the 50's during the Nehru era. She said the two countries can cooperate in small-scale industries and textile areas in which India has the expertise. Mrs. Kumaratunga referred to liberalized economic policies launched in both the countries and invited Indian investment in various sectors. She extended an invitation to Mr. Narasimha Rao to visit Sri Lanka, which Mr. Rao has accepted. The dates of his visit will be finalized later.

Official sources described that the talks were held in a warm and cordial atmosphere. Mrs. Kumaratunga also referred to the internal situation in her country and said she is trying to establish peace and stability through negotiations. The Indian side at the talks included the external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee; the commerce minister, Mr. P. Chidambaram; and others. The Sri Lankan delegation included the foreign minister, Mr. Kadirgamar, and the trade minister, Mr. Wickremaratna.

Earlier, Mrs. Kumaratunga called on the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House]. Both the leaders discussed various aspects of Indo-Sri Lankan relations. Dr. Sharma referred to the need for greater regional cooperation among countries of South Asia. The vice president, Mr. K.R. Narayanan, also called on her.

On arrival this morning, the Sri Lankan president was given a warm welcome. Talking to newsmen, she said efforts to solve the ethnic strife in her country are progressing positively, but no time-frame can be set to solve the issue.

### Regional Cooperation Stressed

*BK2603133395 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sri Lanka and India have agreed on several measures to boost bilateral trade and investment. President Mrs. Chandrika Kumaratunga, on her first official visit overseas to India yesterday, held talks with Prime Minister Narasimha Rao focusing on a range of bilateral relations and regional issues. At present, the trade balance is in India's favor and the two leaders paid special attention to correcting this situation. It was agreed that India would lower tariff for Sri Lankan exports and encourage Indian investment in the island. The question of taxation also came up for discussion at the talks attended by senior ministers from both sides.

Agreement in principle was reached on the end of the talks on the avoidance of double taxation. Lengthy discussions leading to an agreement will be held at official level later. It was initially agreed to export masur dal [lentil] to Sri Lanka at concessionary prices. The Indian side also agreed to consider Sri Lanka's request to increase the foreign exchange allocation to Indian tourists visiting Sri Lanka from the present level of $2,000. Another important proposal which was put forward at this meeting was to attract Indian investors to set up factories in the island to export products to India. The president is also scheduled to address a meeting of powerful Confederation of Indian Industries.

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Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma hosted a banquet in honor of the president last evening. In his welcome address, the Indian president recalled that the bonds between India and Sri Lanka are derived from shared aspirations and values which reflect their common heritage. The countries have a multiplicity of languages, religion, customs, and culture. Therefore, Dr. Sharma noted that India and Sri Lanka should nurture the diversity which encourage pluralism and permeated their democratic outlook. Stating that violence and hate are enemies of all democracies, Dr. Sharma said they bred intolerance and narrowness of thought, deny liberty, and suppressed freedom. The Indian president observed that they both have a fundamental commitment towards economic growth and social development. Economic liberalization in both countries have created new opportunities to harness the energies of their people. Therefore, Dr. Sharma said that they look forward to an era of expanded cooperation. He added that regional cooperation in South Asia have been the basic objective of their foreign policy. He added that they noted the impressive mandate Mrs. Kumaratunga secured for a just political resolution of the ethnic conflict.

In reply, Mrs. Kumaratunga said that it will be her endeavor to build on the foundation of greater understanding and friendship between the two people laid by her late father when he was prime minister and by her mother who assumed this office later. The lives of the majority of Sri Lankans have been moulded by the teachings of the Lord Buddha. In recent times, the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi of nonviolence has shown them that political objectives could be achieved through peaceful means. The president noted that in their own region both countries have been in the forefront of promoting regional cooperation. Many of the 1.2 billion people in South Asia are below the poverty line. Therefore, their foremost task must be to uplift the quality of life. Mrs. Kumaratunga said that this can only be done by bringing together the resources and capacities at their disposal and exploiting them nationally and regionally.

The president was scheduled this morning to pay a floral tribute at the Gandhi samadhi [cremation site] at Rajghat and also to have a meeting with Sonia Gandhi, widow of the assassinated prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi.

### Oil, Gas Agreement Signed With Qatar

*BK2603142695 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 25 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Qatar have agreed to set up a joint committee to further explore possibilities of cooperation between the two countries in the oil and gas sector. The agreed minutes to this effect was signed by the minister of state for petroleum and natural gas, Captain Satish Sharma, and the minister of energy and industry of Qatar, Mr. 'Abdallah Bin-Hamad al-'Atiyah, in New Delhi today. The committee will consist of senior officials of the government and public sector undertakings of both the countries.

### Army Foils Attempt To Smuggle Arms Into Kashmir

*BK2503144595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 25 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the army have arrested 20 militants and foiled an attempt to pump in arms and ammunition into the Kashmir valley. A Defense Ministry spokesman said troops also recovered a big haul of arms and ammunition in Baramula sector yesterday.

## Iran

### 'Equipment, Not Arms' Received From France

*MM2703133395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Mar 95 pp 1, 4*

[Unattributed report: "What Iran Received on Algerian Plane Was French Equipment, Not Arms"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Algiers, Paris, AL-HAYAH—Algerian and Western security forces told AL-HAYAH yesterday that France did indeed send some equipment to Iran within the framework of an agreement reached between Paris and Tehran, under which Iran should refrain from encouraging any terrorist operations on French territory.

The sources pointed out that the equipment are aimed at helping Iran to safeguard its security in various spheres, including improving the performance of its air defenses. The sources also said that the idea of reaching this agreement was proposed by Iran through secret contacts between the two sides, since Tehran asked Paris to take account of the fact that "just as France has legitimate fears concerning its security, Iran too is entitled to have such fears."

The French magazine L'EXPRESS had revealed in a recent issue that an Algerian plane transported French arms to Iran via Cyprus. But the French Government categorically denied this. The Algerian and Western sources told AL-HAYAH that an Algerian plane did indeed transport an arms shipment from Chateauroux in France to Cyprus last October before the beginning of the trial of the two persons suspected of assassinating Shahpour Bakhtiar in Paris, pointing out that some equipment might have been sent with the arms shipment bought by Cyprus. [passage omitted]

### U.S.-Europe Arms Sales Rivalry Harming Region

*LD2403124995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 24 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] U.S. Vice President Al Gore, currently on a tour of several Middle Eastern states, arrived in the occupied Palestine on a two-day official visit Thursday March 23d. He had earlier visited Oman, Jordan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. Following his meetings

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with Tel Aviv officials, he is expected to meet with Yasir 'Arafat, head of the so called self-rule of Ariha [Jericho], on Friday.

Over the past few weeks the Middle East has been a scene of U.S. and European diplomats' shuttles. The visits of the U.S. defense secretary, the British foreign secretary, the German foreign minister, and, at present, the U.S. vice president to the region, are not an issue to be easily overlooked.

In responding to the question as to why the region is the scene of such hectic activities of top U.S. and European political and military officials, one must state the following two main reasons: First, sales of weapons to the Middle East; and second, guaranteeing the security and superiority of the Israeli regime in the sensitive and strategic Middle Eastern region.

In the opinion of the analysts, the sale of arms to the Middle East states, especially the Arab littoral states of the Persian Gulf region, has ensued a rivalry among the U.S. and European states. The rivalry among France, Britain, and America is undoubtedly aimed at taking control of the arms market in the region. Evidently the U.S. intends to turn the region into an arsenal and also control its operations.

Al Gore, in his meeting with the Tel Aviv officials yesterday, stressed America's unwavering determination to maintain Israel's security and superiority in the region by extending an annual military aid worth $1.8 billion to it. Such a situation points to the bleak prospects in the region. In particular, this aid also includes scores of F-15 and F-16 fighters being provided to the Zionist regime. However, one can say that the measure to change the region into an arsenal of the West and America will adversely affect economic viability of the regional states. But by turning the region into a stockpile of unusable and discarded weapons, they will also contribute to a move directed at procuring the interests of western capitalist firms and the Zionist regime.

### Incidents in Pakistan, Istanbul Discussed

*NC2403134095 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 15 Mar 95 p 13*

[Commentary by A. Saleh: "The 'Karachi-Istanbul-Algeria' Connection"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Karachi has been burning in the fire of social crises for some time and some are even discussing the separation of Sind Province—with Karachi as its center. Each day this city is the scene of dozens of murders stemming from ethnic and religious differences.

Two weapons are used to protract this social crisis. One is the weapon of the "migrants" and the other of "religious differences."

Once Islamic rule was established in Pakistan and it separated from India, millions of Muslims from various places headed for the new country hoping to live under Islamic rule. Migrants settled around the port city of Karachi, which is the largest commercial port in Pakistan, lacking even the most basic living conditions.

At first the migrants tolerated many of the problems, since the Pakistani Government was new. But when injustices continued, the feeling of rebellion surged in them and gradually took on serious proportions.

The other weapon was the weapon of spreading discord between Shiites and Sunnis and of subversive acts by misled factions such as the Wahhabis and the Qadianis. The role played by the colonialist powers and even by India to create domestic problems in Pakistan should not be forgotten, since all these powers consider tension in the region and the weakening of Islamic countries to be to their benefit.

During General Ziaul Haq's rule, each time Karachi was plunged into unrest, state forces would enter the scene, spectate for several days, then step in to witness the killing of dozens of people and inculcate the slogan that "were it not for the army, the people would eat each other!" By exercising military power, temporary security would be reestablished in the city.

Apparently such suspicious activities have been going on in Karachi recently. The central government has assumed the role of spectator to the operations by the discordant groups and plots by arrogance, and is witnessing the flaring up of clashes among groups and the extensive operation by the elements of arrogance.

In Istanbul recently, suspicious hands started to move and make mischief. On Sunday [12 March] several unidentified men hired a cab and went to a poor district—Gaziosmanpasa—in Istanbul and shot up several Alawites who had gathered in a coffeeshop in the evening. Four people died. After the crime the murderers also killed the cab driver and fled in the night. Following this incident the enraged Alawites took to the streets and clashed with the police and Sunnis in the district. As a result 26 were killed and dozens were wounded.

Things did not end here. This time the secularists took to the streets in Istanbul and demonstrated against the Islamists, with slogans claiming that if the Islamists come to power, the war between the Sunnis and Alawites would destroy Turkey, so secularism should be protected even more!

The Alawites, who constitute one-fifth of Turkey's population, are considered to be the victim of the secular regime's plot. When Ataturk established secular rule, he resorted to various tactics in a bid to create a popular basis for himself and thus use the Alawites as the basis of secular ideology among the Muslims. The Alawites found themselves plunged into isolation by the Shiites and Sunnis. What Ataturk and his regime tried to do was

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to make the Alawites beat on the drum of secularism. But each time he saw himself in danger, he would fan the flames of enmity among the Muslims in a bid to terrify the Islamists and to force them to retreat, and also to strengthen secularism and to let the Turkish people know that Islamic rule in Turkey would mean a religious war between Sunnis and Alawites.

Since its outset, and in the past 70 years, the secular regime has resorted to "crisis-creating policies" to eliminate Muslims, and has used labels such as "obstructionism in national rule" and "foreign hands" and "efforts to upset national unity" toward this end.

[FBIS Translated Text] The recent incidents in Istanbul too should be assessed as a tactic of demagoguery and a CIA plot, since America and Israel have been issuing blatant warnings that Islamic movements have spread worldwide and that all the necessary channels should be used to avert this threat. The same scenario is being used in Turkey, where they intend to convince the people that if Islamism comes to power, Turkey will be destroyed by flames.

This is why the recent incidents in Istanbul were attributed to the Islamists. HURRIYET, which is published with Freemasons' money, carried a false report that an unidentified person who presented himself as a spokesman for fundamentalist Muslims undertook responsibility for the incident!

Interesting is that foreign radios, especially the BBC and Voice of America, devoted 10 minutes of their newscasts in their Turkish programs to this issue and to the danger of Islamism! Then they went on to connect this incident with a report from Algeria that revolutionary Muslims beheaded a 15-year-old girl they abducted from school! The same day 45 Algerian Muslims were killed by the coupists and no reports were carried in the mass media on this.

But what all this commotion by the Western mass media means is that the secularists are allowed to perpetrate any act to safeguard the West's values, but the Muslims are blamed and accused even if they do nothing.

The recent incidents show that world arrogance is extremely active worldwide and that the "Karachi-Istanbul-Algeria" axis is only part of their plots against the world of Islam. The Muslims should be more alert than ever. They should vigilantly and carefully watch the movements of forces behind the scenes and confront those who are the main perpetrators of such acts.

### Saudi Arabia Putting 'Pressure' on Shiites

*NC2403115095 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 14 Mar 95 p 16*

[Commentary by Sa'id Khakrend: "Shiites Under Pressure From Riyadh—Saudi Arabia, Seeds of Discord"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Right from its inception, the foundations of the Saudi regime have rested on blind prejudice and malevolent sectarian rhetoric. In order to consolidate their rule, the Al-Sa'uds have perpetrated innumerable atrocities, including the massacre of Muslims in that country, the destruction of the Baqi' cemetery which was the interment site of four of the infallible imams (peace be upon them and a number of the associates, spouses, and offspring of the Prophet, peace be upon him). This trend of the Al-Sa'uds' destroying Islamic sites in this hallowed land continues. In an unholy alliance with servile Wahhabi court clerics, the discord-generating policy of the Al-Sa'ud clan assumed larger dimensions. Now, out of sheer abjectness in order to combat the pure Islamic trends, the Saudi regime has implemented its discord-generating sectarian policies among Muslims in some Islamic countries, including:

—Supporting the criminal Sipah-e Sahaba [Wahhabi anti-Shiite] group, thus perpetrating heinous atrocities against Muslims, including planting bombs at a Friday congregation.

—Supporting the power-seeking, vindictive groups in Afghanistan, thus driving a wedge among Afghan combatants and initiating a civil war which has been going on for some years.

—Dispatching its agents to Central Asian republics under the guise of propagators; the seeds of disharmony and discord have been sown among the newly-liberated Muslims of these countries.

—Supporting the repressive regimes in Africa, especially in northern Africa, for crushing the Islamic movements in those countries.

—Putting pressure on the regimes in Kuwait and Bahrain to encourage them to put pressure on the Shiites in that country.

—A plot was unearthed in Oman recently which aimed at creating rifts and differences among the Muslims of that country, and which exposed the disunity-creating nature of the Al-Sa'uds for the Muslims of the Persian Gulf region more than ever before.

In addition, the Shiites inside Saudi Arabia are being subjected to excessive oppression under the Al-Sa'uds' rule. On the one hand, they have to endure the tyranny, oppression, despotism, and dictatorial rule of the regime which is inflicted on everyone, and on the other hand, they have to suffer the discriminatory religious policies of the regime and of those servile Wahhabis who harbor religious prejudices. Thus, they have to live within the viselike grip of these two vicious conditions.

The Shiites in Saudi Arabia are deprived of their basic rights and treated as a minority. The Wahhabi clerics consider Shiites to be renegades and polytheists. In this regard we can cite the fatwa [religious decree] of Mufti of Saudi Arabia Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz-bin-Baz, who accused Shiites of polytheism and apostasy and banned

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marriages with Shiites. We can also refer to the fatwa by Bin-Jabrayn who said in 1991 that Shiites were polytheists and deserved to be killed.

The Shiites in Saudi Arabia do not have permission to repair their damaged mosques and the Al-Sa'ud regime prevents them from performing any kind of daily religious ceremonies such as prayer congregations and so on. Possession of Shiite texts is a crime in Saudi Arabia which is punished by imprisonment and flogging.

In the economic sphere, Shiite workers are given lower wages and facilities than others and in the field of trade, Shiite businessmen are faced with intense and crippling restrictions. After the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, Shiite workers were subjected to intense pressure and many of them were expelled from important companies such as Aramco.

In the field of education, Shiites are barred from continuing education in areas such as medicine, engineering, international relations, journalism and communications, and nuclear physics. This is so even though the Shiite applicants are more eager to study in these fields and are relatively more qualified than those who are selected.

The King Sa'ud University and the Muhammad bin-Sa'ud University in Riyadh, the "Umm al-Qura" in Mecca, the King 'Abd-al 'Aziz University in Jeddah , the Fahd University of Oil and Minerals in Dhahran, the Dar al-Ahsa' University in Holy Medina do not accept Shiite students.

The Saudi regime adopts a very strict attitude toward Shiite seminaries in Shiite-inhabited areas and has even closed down some Shiite theological seminaries which had been functioning for decades. It also bans the opening of new seminaries.

The Shiites of that country do not have any role in deciding their own destinies and are under intense pressure. With such a record, and a performance replete with malicious sectarian measures, the Saudi regime carries out a propaganda hue and cry accusing the Islamic Republic of Iran—which is the proclaimer of Muslim unity—of sowing dissension among Muslims!

## Radio Comments on NPT Loopholes, Renewal

*NC2503082095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 25 Mar 95*

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The permanent members of the UN Security Council have prepared a resolution on the basis of which security guarantees against a nuclear threat will be provided to the non-nuclear members of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. This is the first time that such a stance has been adopted by countries that are permanent members of the Security Council all of which are considered the nuclear powers of the world. Political experts comment that this joint stance and the acceptance of a pledge for the sake of the non-nuclear countries is an effort on the part of the nuclear powers for eliciting the concurrence of the non-nuclear countries for the renewal of the NPT. The NPT is aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear arms on the international level and has 170 signatories. The NPT has now expired and a session is to be convened in New York after one month for its renewal.

Differences of opinion exist among the nuclear and non-nuclear countries regarding the renewal of the NPT. The nuclear powers always insist on the renewal of the NPT without any amendments while the non-nuclear countries want amendments in the NPT to eliminate its weak points and to renew it for a specified period. Their demands include a moratorium on nuclear testing, efforts to destroy the existing nuclear weapons, extending membership to all the countries of the world, and guarantees to the non-nuclear countries against the nuclear threat.

Non-nuclear countries believe that by taking these issues into account, it is possible to consolidate the principles and objectives of the current NPT and to prevent its collapse. Currently, the dichotomy of thought between the nuclear and the non-nuclear groups regarding the manner of the renewal of the NPT has resulted in the two groups lobbying to elicit the support of countries for their respective viewpoints. The coordination of the permanent Security Council member countries, all of which are considered nuclear powers, is in fact a measure to assure the non-nuclear countries.

In this manner they are seeking to elicit the views of the groups of various countries in support of their proposals at the session for the renewal of the NPT. Even though providing security guarantees to non-nuclear countries against the nuclear threat can be a source of assurance to a certain extent to the non-nuclear countries but in view of the fact that the greater powers have always entered the arena for their own interests it is necessary that in addition to obtaining security guarantees, non-nuclear countries should also seek to have their other requests approved so that all paths are blocked for the nuclear powers to capitalize on the situation.

## Rafsanjani Inaugurates Refinery in Faryab

*LD2603123195 Tehran IRNA in English 1053 GMT 26 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Faryab, Kerman Prov., March, 26, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Saturday [25 March] termed the inauguration of the ferro manganese and ferro chrome refinery in this southern province as a major step taken towards the development of mines section in the First Five-Year Development Plan.

Addressing the engineers and employees of the refinery, the president underlined that various potentials exist in

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the country's mines sector, the realization of which will be followed by independence and will hasten the economic movements.

Commenting on Chinese cooperation in establishing the first ferro chrome and ferro manganese refinery here, he stated that China was one of our best friends in the First Development Plan.

Mines and metals Minister Hoseyn Mahluji who was accompanying the president during his tour of the province said that the people in charge of mines are determined to find their position in steel, copper and aluminium in the world without exerting pressure on the country's public budget.

He added that the total steel productions of the country in 1368 (1989-1990) was one million tons which reached 4.7 million tons in 1373 (1994-1995).

The first ferro alloy refinery was also inaugurated by President Rafsanjani Saturday in Roudan, in the southern province of Hormuzgan.

The refinery was built at a cost of rls. [rials] 35 billion, plus dlrs. [dollars] 19.25 million. It produces 15,000 tons of ferro chrome and 20,000 tons of ferro manganese annually.

### 'Rise' in Non-Oil Export Figures Reported

*LD2503180195 Tehran IRNA in English 1602 GMT 25 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March 25, IRNA—Iran's non-oil exports stood between dlrs. 4.2-to-4.5 billion [bn] in the year 1373 which came to an end on March 20, a rise of 10 percent compared to the preceding year's figures.

Deputy head of the chamber of commerce, industries and mines Habibollah Askar-Owladi, pointing out to IRNA the rise in non-oil exports from a mere dlrs. 300 million from before the start of the First 5-Year Plan to the dlrs. 4 bn-plus at present, was hopeful that the figure would more than double in the second plan which started this year.

The country's economic officials have set a target of dlrs. 27 bn for non-oil exports by the end of the 5-year period.

Askar-Owladi said better banking, customs and transportation facilities would help exporters circulate their capital three to four times annually.

### Energy Official Comments on 30 Key Dam Sites

*LD2703175595 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] There are currently 30 large dams under construction in the country. Completion of these dams will play an important role in the country's development.

The water resources deputy of the energy ministry, today describing the implementation phase of building large dams in the country, said: Our country ranks the second in the world in the construction of large dams. The Islamic Republic of Iran is proud of this achievement and its infrastructure projects.

He added: The great Karun dam in Khuzestan and the Barun dam in Maku will be completed this year. Also under construction are the Tanguyeh dam in the Kerman province and the Alavian and Nahand dams in the Khorasan province. Other dam building and water resources management projects include the Raysari-Delvari dam in the Bushehr province, the Salman Farsi, Kavar and Hanna dams in the Fars province and the Kuhrang and Gavmishan tunnels. [passage omitted]

### Precious Metals, Steel Production Increase Noted

*LD2603173895 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Mines and Metals Minister [Mohammad Mahluji] has announced: During the First [five-year] Economic Development Plan, one of the most important achievements of the country in the mining sector was gaining access to gold extraction technology. Mr. Mahluji said: Thanks to this technology, this year about 700 kg of gold will be extracted from the country's gold mines.

About higher production of copper, iron, and aluminum during the first development plan, Mr. Mahluji said: In the year 1373 [year ending 20 March 1995] copper production increased from 50,000 tonnes to 100,000 tonnes, aluminium increased from 30,000 tonnes to 115,000 tonnes, and steel production increased from 1.3 to 4.8 million tonnes.

### Law Enforcement Forces Announce Draft for Males

*LD2503103295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 25 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] All male conscripts who were born in the Iranian year 1355 [year ending March 1976] have been called up for military service.

In a statement the Law Enforcement Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran announce that the 1,355 male conscripts should register at their local military service center at the offices of Law Enforcement Forces in order to be dispatched for their compulsory service.

The statement also calls on male conscripts born in 1356 to register before the end of the year at the military service centers at their place of birth or place of residency. [passage omitted]

### Commentary on Nature of Marja'iyat

*95LA0123B Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 30 Nov 94 p 8*

[Commentary by Hasan Bolkhar; from the Cultural Service column]

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[FBIS Translated Text]

A. Next to velayat, marja'iyat is the most important religious and political institution for the government and in Shiism. It is a major pillar in the organization of this sect, as well as its social, political, and cultural leadership. A review of recent history of Shiite societies, especially in Iran, reveals that the presence and influence of alert maraje' [plural of marja'] have served as a solid defense against corrupt ideas and imposed rulers. The Iranian revolution is an example of the strong and effective presence of marja'iyat in guiding the society and protecting the interests of the Islamic nation. That revolution was not just a political and social development, but rather a process that infused the society with religious doctrines. It saved the religion from isolation and made it a source of manifold constructive theories. Marja'iyat found a new role and position in the context of this movement, and, together with velayat, it was no longer only concerned with religious questions of a personal nature, but rather it became engaged in large societal questions, leading and controlling developments in jurisprudence, politics, and society.

This commentary is not intended to analyze and demonstrate that there is no need for marja'iyat to be a constitutional requirement for leadership, but we can never ignore the need for the marja' to be fully versed in the complexities of social, political, and economic issues in the present-day world. This commentary, no matter how it is interpreted, does not imply that the marja'iyat should not have a political dimension.

In a world in which political equations and interactions are based on definitive, standardized, and specific criteria, being deprived of a strong political and social understanding, can lead the marja' to disaster. This does not mean that marja'iyat should be caught between factional tendencies and tensions, but rather it means that the method of selecting the marja' must be transformed to reflect the interests of Islam in today's world.

Are not some activities, such as those suspicious ones by the French ambassador in Iran and his visits and meeting with some clergy in Qom or the biased commentaries by the BBC radio, indicative of the sensitivity and role of marja'iyat and its impact on foreign powers? After 15 years from the victory of the Iranian revolution, the tensions of a revolutionary society must end. It is now time for clear ideologies, movement of the society based on Islamic beliefs, and implementation of a successful intellectual and political regime. In such an atmosphere, marja'iyat plays the role of a theoretician and a great ideological expert. The society rightly expects the seminaries to bravely step into the arena in this critical period and intelligently implement the ideologies. This is a rightful expectation.

B. On Thursday, 26 Aban [17 November], the English language daily IRAN NEWS reported the announcement by the Society of Combatant Clergy of the names of four clerics from Qom Seminary who are qualified to be a marja'. After one week, on 3 Azar [24 November], the SALAM daily reported the same thing. This was denied on the same day, in the afternoon, by the RESALAT daily. Even if we ignore the fact that RESALAT, which is believed to be an organ of the Society of Combatant Clergy, had not denied the same report when it was printed by IRAN NEWS a week earlier than SALAM, and assuming with certainty that the Society for Combatant Clergy, being aware of the sensitivity and importance of issues related to marja'iyat and having the right to introduce qualified individuals for marja'iyat, will not allow its name to be used for special interest tendencies, it is still necessary to remind ourselves of the requirement to be careful when discussing such a sensitive and complex issue as marja'iyat.

During the past two years or so, we have faced the unfortunate situation that a group of individuals bring up issues related to marja'iyat with the purpose of pursuing their own special interests. They nominate some individuals, based on factional agreements and political inclinations, and promote them without being qualified in social, cultural, and political issues. We do not intend to negate nominations but emphasize that marja'iyat must remain above political intrigues and merge and function in conjunction with leadership, as was the case during the exemplary time of his holiness Imam. We assert that the mission of thinkers and seminarians in this critical period is either to equip people with the necessary knowledge and awareness to elect the marja', or nominate individuals who meet the interest of Islamic world, rather than factional interests.

## Pakistan

### Press Comments on Hillary Clinton Visit

*BK2603163495*

[FBIS Editorial Report] Two English language daily newspapers carry editorials on the visit to Pakistan by Mrs. Hillary Clinton, both of which are positive in tone.

Islamabad THE NATION in English on 26 March publishes a 437-word editorial on page 6 under the heading "Mrs. Clinton's Visit." The editorial states that since the First Lady holds no public office in her own right, "it is unrealistic to expect that she would be able to resolve, that is if she so desires, the issues of contention which presently bedevil Pak-US relations." However, the editorial notes that as she is "the ears and eyes of her husband," she may eventually be able to influence "the President's opinion and US policy towards this country." The editorial also notes with approval the "wide range of opinion leaders" whom she will meet and adds that, given Mrs. Clinton's interest in the issues of "children and women's development" and the "less affluent sections of society" in the United States, her time in Pakistan may be a "particularly enlightening experience for her."

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Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English on 26 March publishes a 438-word editorial on page 6 under the heading "Hillary's Visit." The editorial notes Mrs. Clinton's "admirable balance between her domestic responsibilities" and "her public role as spouse of the US President." After giving details of her background and interests, the editorial notes that she "wields considerable influence on the US policy-making process" and says "her choice of South Asia as the area of her itinerary reflects the deep interest she has in the region." The editorial states that her scheduled talks with Benazir Bhutto are being billed as "a ground-breaking exercise for the latter's forthcoming visit to the United States." It also notes that the First Lady's visit symbolizes the "recent improvement in Pak-US ties" following recognition by U.S. Administration officials of the "inherent injustice of discriminatory laws like the Pressler Amendment." It closes by hoping that the visit will be "a harbinger of closer and fruitful relations between Washington and Islamabad."

### Bhutto-Hillary Clinton Talks Viewed

*BK2803064295 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 28 Mar 95 p 10*

[Editorial: "Hillary Clinton's Visit"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The First Lady of the United States of America, Hillary Clinton, declared in her arrival statements that the purpose of her 2-week tour to the countries of South Asia is to gain a first-hand knowledge of development activities in the region. While Pakistan's concern at issues like Kashmir as well as the irritants between the Pakistan-US relations, particularly the held-up F-16 planes and the Pressler Amendment, was forcefully voiced, the talks mainly focused on matters that stood for special interest in the context of Mrs. Clinton's present visit. Hillary Clinton's has shown interest in what is being done positively in Pakistan to promote education for women and girls and to deal with violence against them, as also the role of Pakistani women in national development—Mrs. Clinton's credentials as an advocate for the cause of women, children, families and communities in her own country make her an ideal emissary to explore human dimensions of politics, policy and diplomacy. While apprising Mrs. Clinton of the advancements made in the areas of her interest, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto enlisted her government's achievements in putting administrative curbs on the prevalent institutional discrimination against women, in which context she referred to measures such as the establishment of the First Women's Bank, special Women's Police Stations, induction of women in judiciary, and the ten percent quota for women in all bureaucratic jobs. In the context of social development, the US visitor was informed of government's efforts to control drug trafficking and contain the menace of terrorism.

While the US First Lady expressed admiration for the government of Pakistan's efforts to better the existing state of affairs, the rift within our own ranks was quite evident as attempts were made by some quarters to equate the trouble in Karachi with human rights violations in Kashmir. This was quite unwarranted—whatever valid criticism of government policies needs to be made—for it amounts to providing India with an opportunity to undermine Pakistan's stand on that issue. Not many will disagree to the fact that whatever achievements either in the area of human rights or social development the government claims the credit for are far from adequate and in significant ways have yet to filter down to the grass-roots level. It is equally true that the government has not been able to handle the Karachi situation in a desirable way. However, greater effort needs to be made to address such issues in a non-partisan spirit rather than making every possible effort to run down whatever little has been achieved.

### Bhutto Lauded for Restating Policies

*BK2803080495 Lahore JANG in Urdu 28 Mar 95 p 10*

[Editorial: "Reaffirmation of Pakistan's Stance Before the First Lady of the United States"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Discussing Pakistan-U.S. relations during her meeting with the U.S. first lady, Hillary Clinton, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that the Pressler Amendment has very much affected the relations between Pakistan and the United States. The United States should either deliver F-16 aircraft to Pakistan or refund the amount paid for them.

As far as the Pressler Amendment is concerned, now the U.S. authorities themselves have admitted that it not only affected the relations between Pakistan and the United States, but also has not helped, in any way, to eliminate an arms race in South Asia. And the amendment has also vitiated the efforts of the United States to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. On the basis of this amendment, Pakistan was discriminated against India by the United States and attempts were made to impose unilateral restrictions on Pakistan's nuclear program, which was always resisted by Pakistan. Pakistan remained steadfast in its stance and now, it has, to a great extent, overcome all kinds of U.S. pressures. Despite collecting the amount for F-16 aircraft, the United States halted the delivery of the aircraft. Now, Pakistan demands that when the United States itself has admitted the failure of the Pressler Amendment and has recognized Pakistan's stance on the nuclear policy as well, it should either refund the amount collected for F-16's or deliver the aircraft to Pakistan. During her talks with the first lady of the United States, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has fulfilled her responsibility by reaffirming Pakistan's stance. This also negates the impression circulated by certain quarters that through some of her steps, the prime minister wants to please the United States prior to her visit to that country. It is expected that the prime minister will put up the same stance before President Clinton also and will emphasize

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the need for finding a just solution to the problem. There is no ambiguity in Pakistan's stance that the U.S. authorities should not find it hard to understand.

### Opposition Urged To Support Bhutto's U.S. Visit

*BK2703123495 Lahore JANG in Urdu 26 Mar 95 p 3*

[Editorial: "The Prime Minister's U.S. Visit—It is Not Appropriate To Express Unjustified Apprehensions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that her government will not compromise with the United States on the nuclear issue. "During the U.S. visit, we will improve the relations only in an honorable manner." She said that we have never compromised on principles. Instead, we made sacrifices to uphold our principles and were imprisoned. How is it possible for us now to make any compromise on any principle or national interest?

The prime minister's proposed visit to the United States is a hot topic throughout country today with people debating on its effects and outcome. Apprehensions are being expressed by the opposition in this regard. Addressing a convention of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Group, the country's biggest opposition party, in Lahore on 24 March, speakers said that they will not allow the present government to make any compromise with the United States, and Prime Minister Bhutto will not be allowed to make any concession on any vital interest of Pakistan during her visit to the United States. Gauhar Ayub, Ejazul Haq, and other speakers repeatedly warned that if the prime minister tries to disregard any national interest during her talks with the U.S. Government, such a move will be forcefully thwarted. Opposition leader Mian Nawaz Sharif has also expressed similar views.

The opposition has every right to criticize the government's policies. It is also its duty to keep a watch on all steps being taken by the government and cautioning it that it should not take any step contrary to the national interests. If the opposition does so, then it will only be carrying out its responsibility. However, the government, too, has the right to refute unjustified allegations that might be made against its intentions without any proof or evidence. Since the present government came to power, the opposition has been persistently saying that the government wants to compromise on Pakistan's nuclear program, the Kashmir dispute, and the country's ideological base. Though the allegation has been made persistently for the last one and a half years, no evidence or proof was presented to the country to substantiate it. The government's assertion that it will never compromise on vital national interests has so far proved to be true. It has been observed during the last four to six months that the United States has considerably reduced its pressure on Pakistan on the nuclear issue and has acknowledged to a large extent that the implementation of the Pressler Amendment against Pakistan is unjustified and ineffective. A feeling is emerging in a section of the U.S. Administration and Congress that implementation of the Pressler Amendment has not resulted in a halt to the nuclear arms race in the South Asian subcontinent, nor could it check the race for convention weapons, either; it has rather encouraged it.

Under this context, the worry that the prime minister will make a compromise on national issues during her visit to the United States does not carry much weight. Pakistan's vital interests are as dear to the government as they are to the opposition. The opposition is patriotic. The ruling party, too, intensely loves the country and the nation. Given this fact, it is unjustified to fear that the prime minister will show any unwarranted flexibility on national interests and will give in to pressure, which is contradictory to our national interests. Therefore, instead of resorting to only negative criticism of the prime minister on her U.S. visit, the opposition should extend its principled support to the government to enable the prime minister hold talks with full confidence with U.S. Government authorities.

In 1972, when former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto went to Simla to hold talks with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the opposition had expressed complete solidarity with him and made it clear to India that they were all united on basic national issues and that Prime Minister Bhutto enjoyed their full support. The benefit of expressing that solidarity was that it enabled Bhutto to hold talks with full confidence with Indian leaders, and he succeeded in concluding a comparatively better agreement with India even in the most unfavorable situation.

By imposing unjustified restrictions against Pakistan for the last five years, the United States has not only stopped the economic and military aid to Pakistan but has also denied it the defense equipment and aircraft it purchased from the United States. The prime minister will strive to reverse this unjust stance during her visit to the United States, and this is an important national objective. Therefore, instead of expressing unjustified apprehensions about the government's intentions the opposition should express solidarity so that it can hold talks with greater confidence with the U.S. leaders.

### Police Round Up 7 Suspects in Ramzi Case

*BK2803062895 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Mar 95 p 1*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Peshawar, March 27—In the backdrop of crackdown on the accomplices of Ramzi Yusuf, the secret agencies on Sunday [26 March] night rounded up another seven suspects from the Hibzul Mujahideen office at Hayatabad.

Among the seven, the local head of the Hizbul Mujahideen, Muhammad Maqbool Pandat was also included, while identity of the remaining six persons was not disclosed by the FIA [Federal Investigation Agency] officials.

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The Hizbul Mujahideen sources in Peshawar were tight lipped and rather said that they were guests from Kashmir and the Hezb did not know in detail about them. They have been kept at the FIA cell near the Peshawar airport for interrogation.

An official of the FIA told THE MUSLIM that the uncle of Yusuf Ramzi, Abut Majid, used to have close connections with that office of the Hezbul Mujahideen. However, Maqbool Pandat had denied any connection with Ramzi during the interrogation, which was under way and the factual postion would be cleared in a day or two. On the other hand the Hizbul Mujahideen sources have expressed surprise over the government action.

## Government Raid on Jamaat-i-Islami Office Condemned

*BK2703123295 Lahore JANG in Urdu 27 Mar 95 p 10*

[Editorial:"Raid on the Office of the Jamaat-i-Islami Azad Kashmir"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Secret agencies raided the Islamabad office of Jamaat-i-Islami Azad Kashmir on Saturday [25 March] and seized some important files. The employees of the agencies were in the office for half an hour, and the deputy director of the Kashmir Information Center was arrested and sent to an undisclosed location. Expressing a strong reaction to this raid, Jammat-i-Islami chief Qazi Hussain Ahmad stated that this treatment was already expected from the government and that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto can do everything to cajole the United States.

Jamaat-i-Islami's policy on Kashmir is not a secret. The Jamaat-i-Islami fully supports the Kashmiri mujahidin in their armed uprising, and giving assistance and patronage to the refugees arriving from occupied Kashmir is also a part of its policy. Some youths supporting the Jamaat-i-Islami have been taking part in the holy war with the mujahidin in occupied Kashmir, and several of them have also been martyred. Pakistan is an important party to the Kashmir dispute. If with the help of its 600,000 troops, India could commit atrocities against the people of Kashmir and push them into Pakistan, Pakistan is also bound to help and patronize the Kashmiri people, especially the refugees. However, the government's policy has been to extend political and diplomatic assistance only to the Kashmiri people. The foreign media has also confirmed that no assistance at the government level is being extended to the Kashmiris from Pakistan and that Islamabad does not interfere in Kashmiri affairs. During his tenure, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif had also removed the relief camps set up by the Jamaat-i-Islami in Azad Kashmir, and the present government has admitted having withheld all sorts of assistance to the Kashmiris. Several opposition parties describe this government's policy on Kashmir as an outcome of the pressure from the United States. Against the backdrop of all this, the raid on the office of the Jamaat-i-Islami Azad Kashmir can create many kinds of doubts regarding the government's Kashmir policy. In particular, the raid conducted during the visit of the U.S. first lady to Pakistan and a few days prior to the departure of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to the United States may create an impression that the Government of Pakistan has taken this kind of action just to please the United States. Also in view of Jamaat-i-Islami's policy on Kashmir and the United States, this impression will be strengthened, and the people will start doubting the government's claims on Kashmir. Through this raid, the government has not enhanced its popularity; nevertheless, strong opposition has taken the place of the moderation adopted by the Jamaat toward the government so far. The government should explain why it conducted the raid at all.

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